



SEAN MURPHY WITH MATT HOLLINGSWORTH

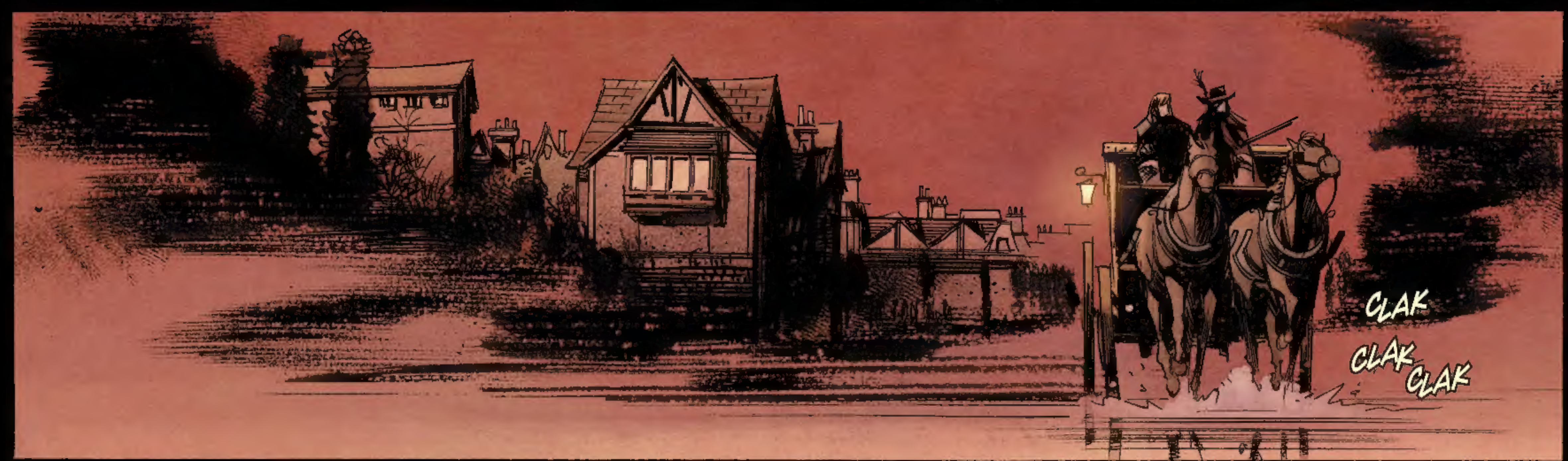
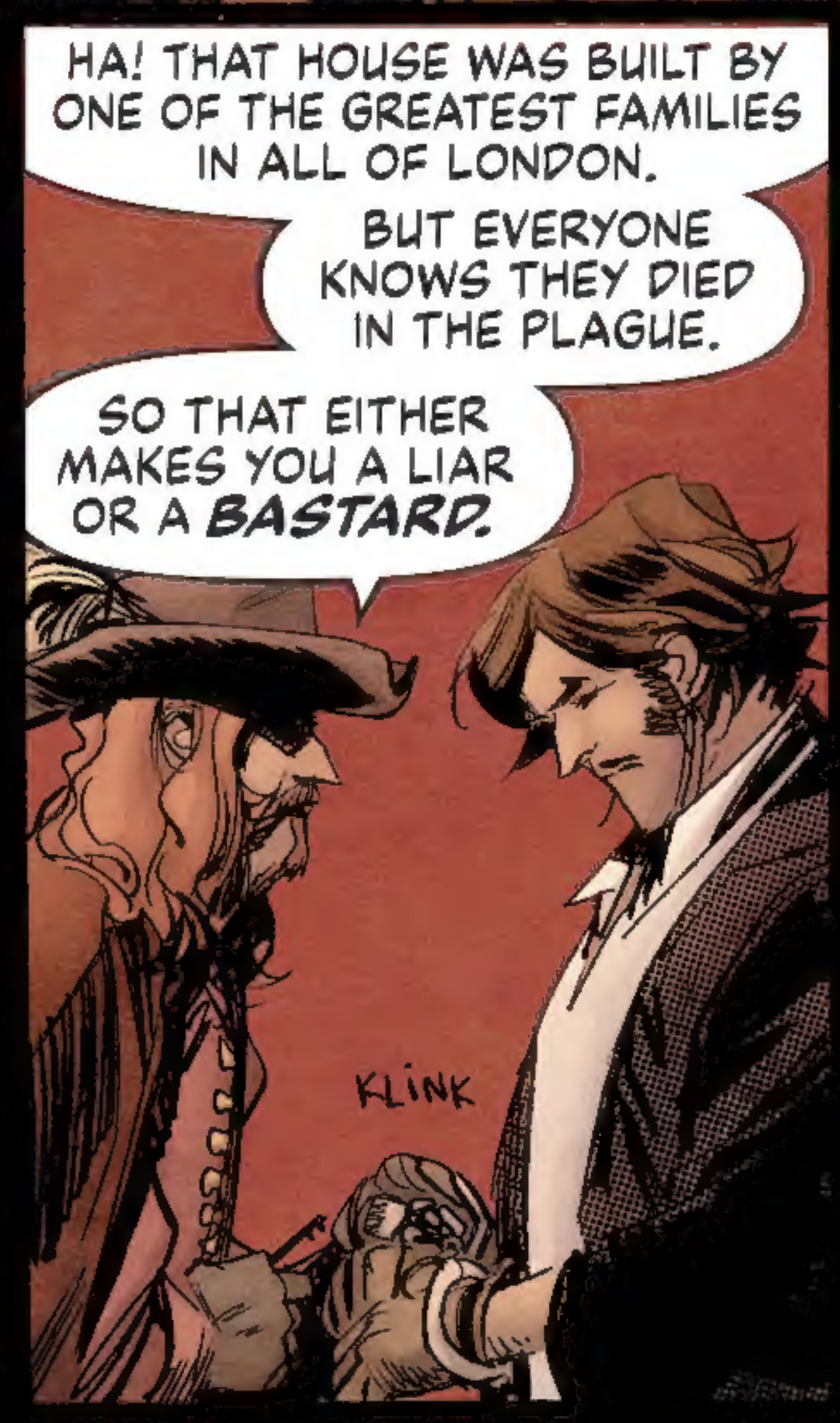
BATMAN

CURSE OF THE

WHITE KNIGHT

BOOK TWO

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Sean Murphy: Script, Art, Covers
Matt Hollingsworth: Colors & Cover Colors
AndWorld Design: Letters

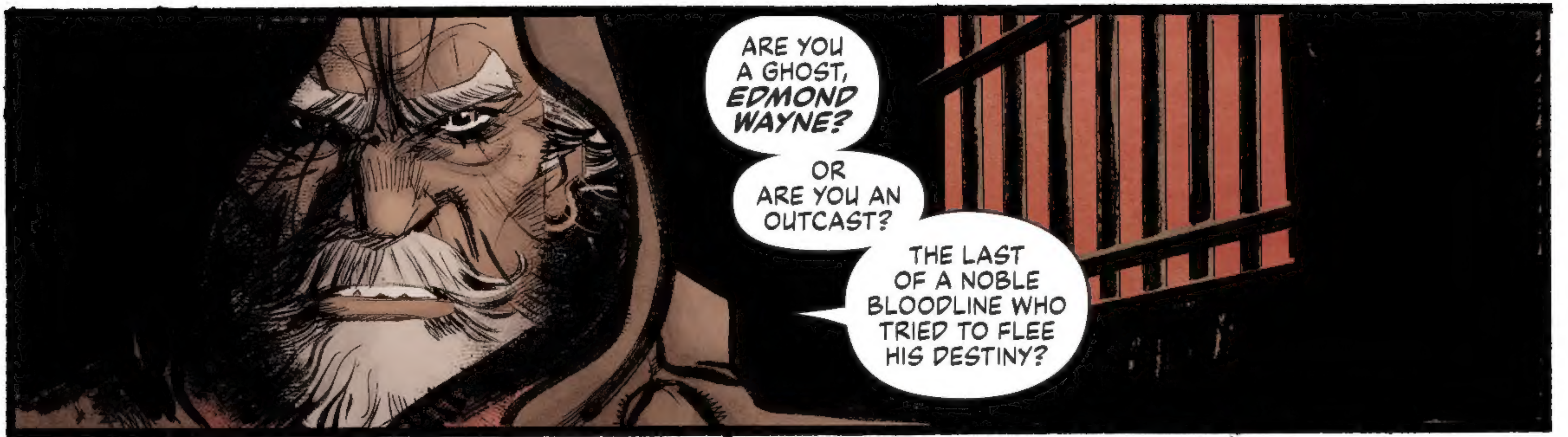
BATMAN

CURSE OF THE

WHITE KNIGHT

BOOK TWO

Batman created by Bob Kane with Bill Finger



ARE YOU
A GHOST,
**EDMOND
WAYNE?**

OR
ARE YOU AN
OUTCAST?

THE LAST
OF A NOBLE
BLOODLINE WHO
TRIED TO FLEE
HIS DESTINY?



I NEVER
TOLD YOU
MY FIRST
NAME.

TELL ME--
DO YOU BELIEVE
THAT **GOD HAS A
PLAN** FOR EACH
OF US?

I DON'T
BELIEVE IN
GOD.



WELL, I DO. AND
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS
WAS HIS PATH FOR YOU.
I THINK YOU'RE **MEANT
FOR SOMETHING
GREATER.**

YOU'RE NOT
A GUARD.

NO, I'M A
MESSENGER.
A PRIEST. AND
I OFFER YOU A
CHOICE, BUT YOU
MUST DECIDE
QUICKLY.



YOU CAN ACCEPT
YOUR CURRENT FATE,
ROTTING INSIDE THE
HELL OF NEWGATE HERE
IN LONDON. OR YOU
CAN ACCEPT THAT GOD
HAS OTHER PLANS
FOR YOU...

...BY
COMING
WITH
ME.

FINE, I
ACCEPT GOD!
WHATEVER GETS
ME OUT OF
PRISON--

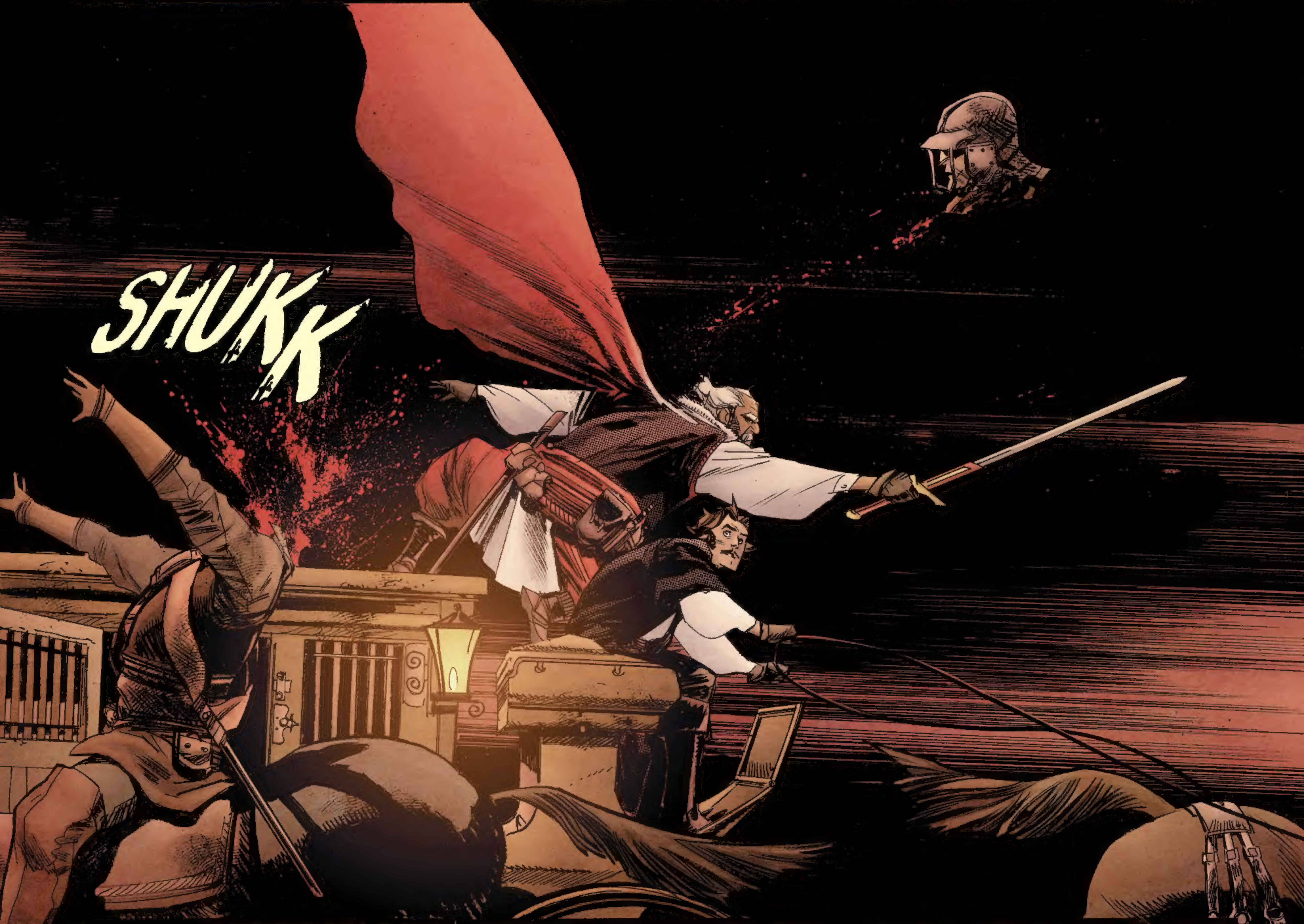
GOOD.

KLAK

WHAT...
WHAT ARE
YOU GOING
TO DO?

GOD'S
WILL.





CHRIST--
WHAT KIND OF
PRIEST ARE
YOU?!

MY NAME IS
BAKKAR.

AND
I'LL ASK
THAT YOU
NEVER AGAIN
TAKE THE
LORD'S NAME
IN VAIN.



A PLACE
CALLED
GOTHAM
VALLEY.

IN THE
NEW WORLD,
WHERE YOUR
INHERITANCE
AWAITS.

WHERE
ARE WE
GOING?



Six men dead.



While they didn't die by my hand, they died for my freedom. And the guilt weighs heavily on my soul. For I've never taken a life, nor do I ever intend to.

The olive-skinned priest seems undaunted—no doubt he's taken many lives. But he claims to be driven by a higher purpose, ordained by God.

Bakkar hails from the Beqaa Valley, a place deep in the Ottoman where his family traded in wine.

I know of a long tradition of warrior-priests from that part of Persia, but the Crusades have long ended.



Bakkar claims the Templars never disappeared from the Holy Land—they just split into smaller factions. Like the Order of St. Dumas, which he serves.



Bakkar was sent to the New World to spread the word of God to the colonists.

Ever the brave warrior, he chose to settle in the place that needed him the most.

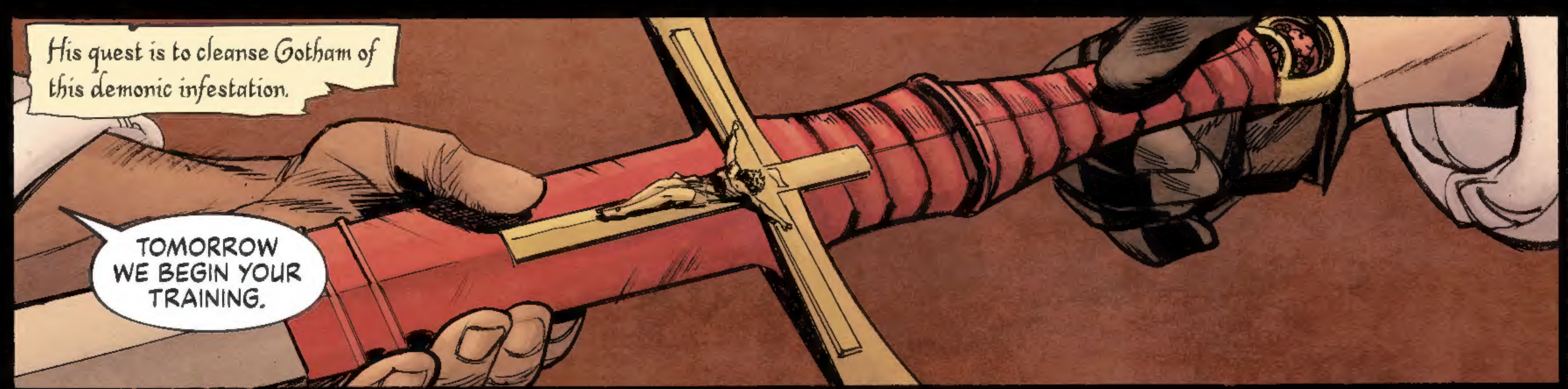
Gotham Village is a place of sin, and a haven for smugglers and pirates. Controlled by a corrupt general who stole the land from its rightful owners.



His name is Lafayette Arkham, but villagers know him as Laffy.

Supposedly he's a vampire—a demon who feeds on the blood of small children.

I don't believe in such stories. But Bakkar does.



His quest is to cleanse Gotham of this demonic infestation.

TOMORROW
WE BEGIN YOUR
TRAINING.

All he needs is an heir of
the family who has legal
claim to the valley...



...someone whom the British
would be forced to recognize
as Gotham's rightful lord...



...someone who would
force Arkham out...

...someone to end
the illegal trade...



...someone brave enough to help him bring
peace to the innocent people of Gotham.



All Bakkar needs...

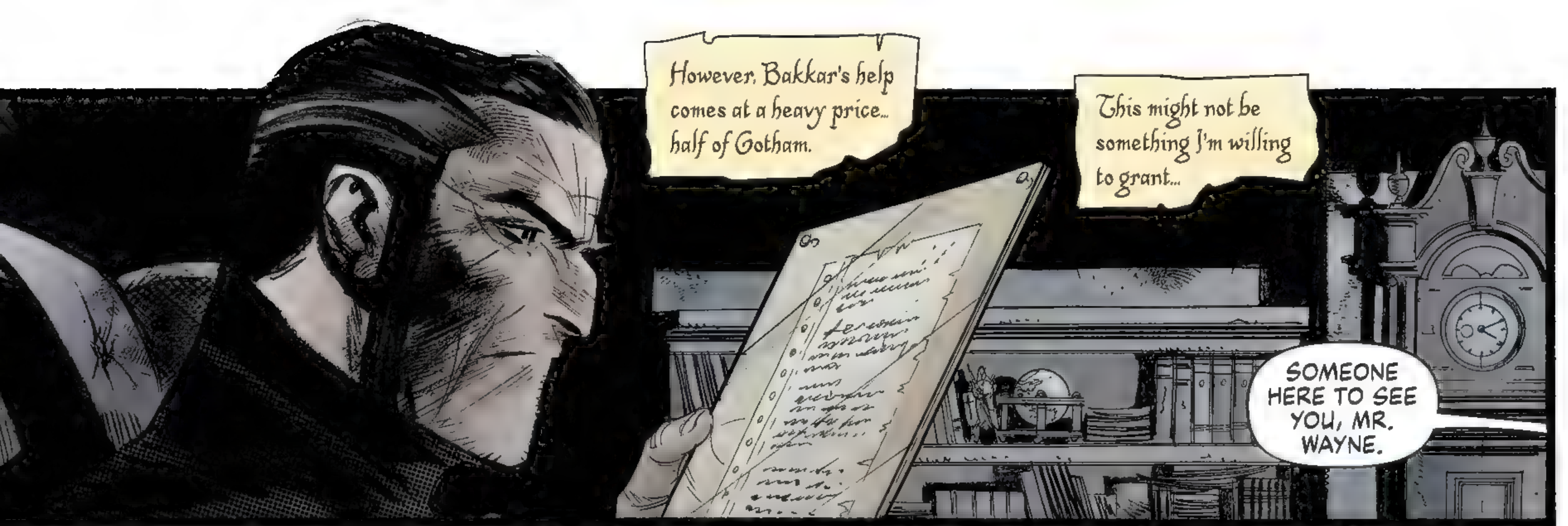


...is a Wayne.



Gotham Valley is all my family has left.

So this is where we make our stand.



However, Bakkar's help comes at a heavy price... half of Gotham.

This might not be something I'm willing to grant...

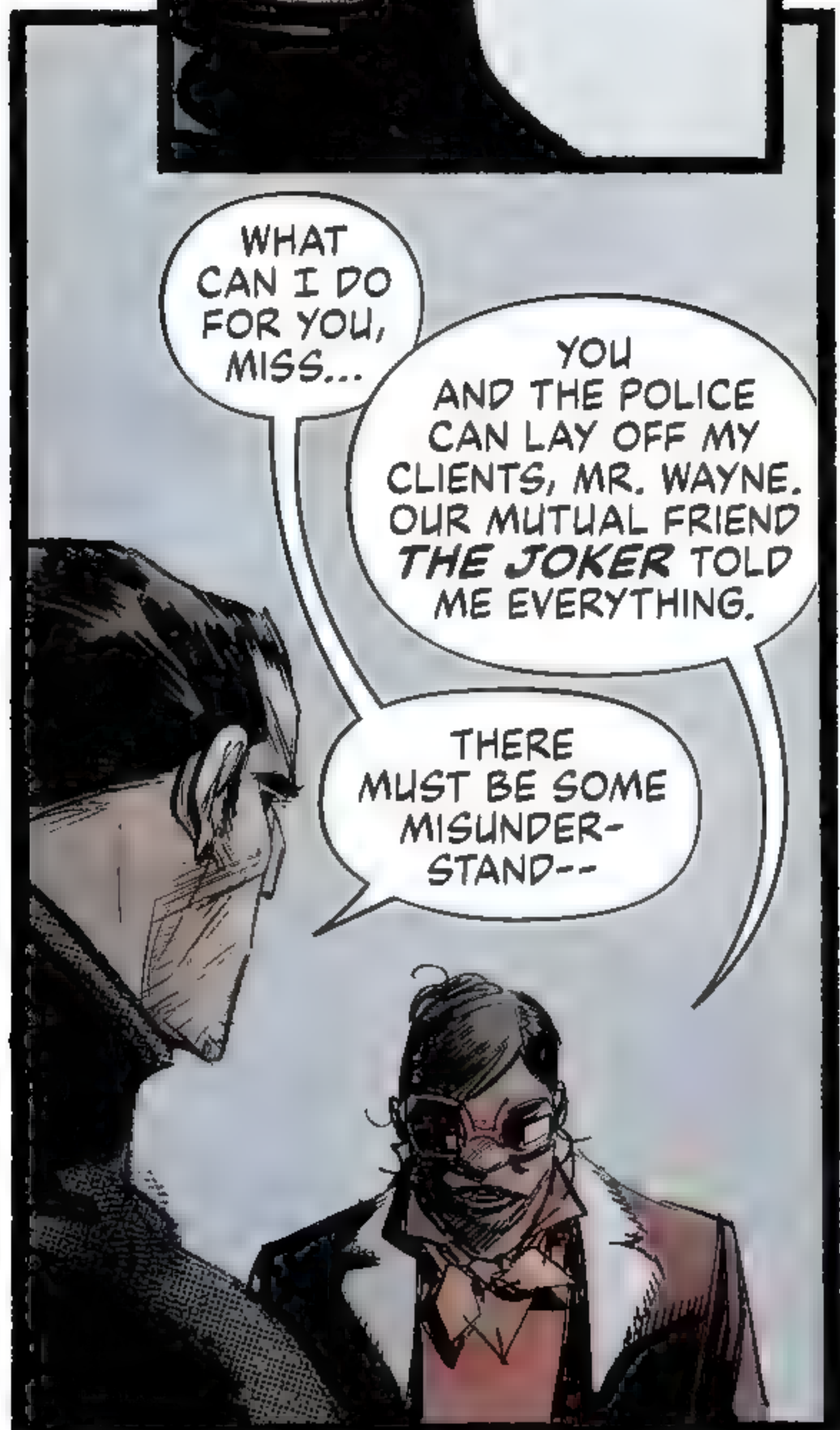
SOMEONE HERE TO SEE YOU, MR. WAYNE.



SHE DOESN'T HAVE AN APPOINTMENT.

IT'S IMPORTANT, MR. WAYNE. I'M HERE ABOUT YOUR **BAT** PROBLEM.

...
LET HER IN.



WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, MISS...

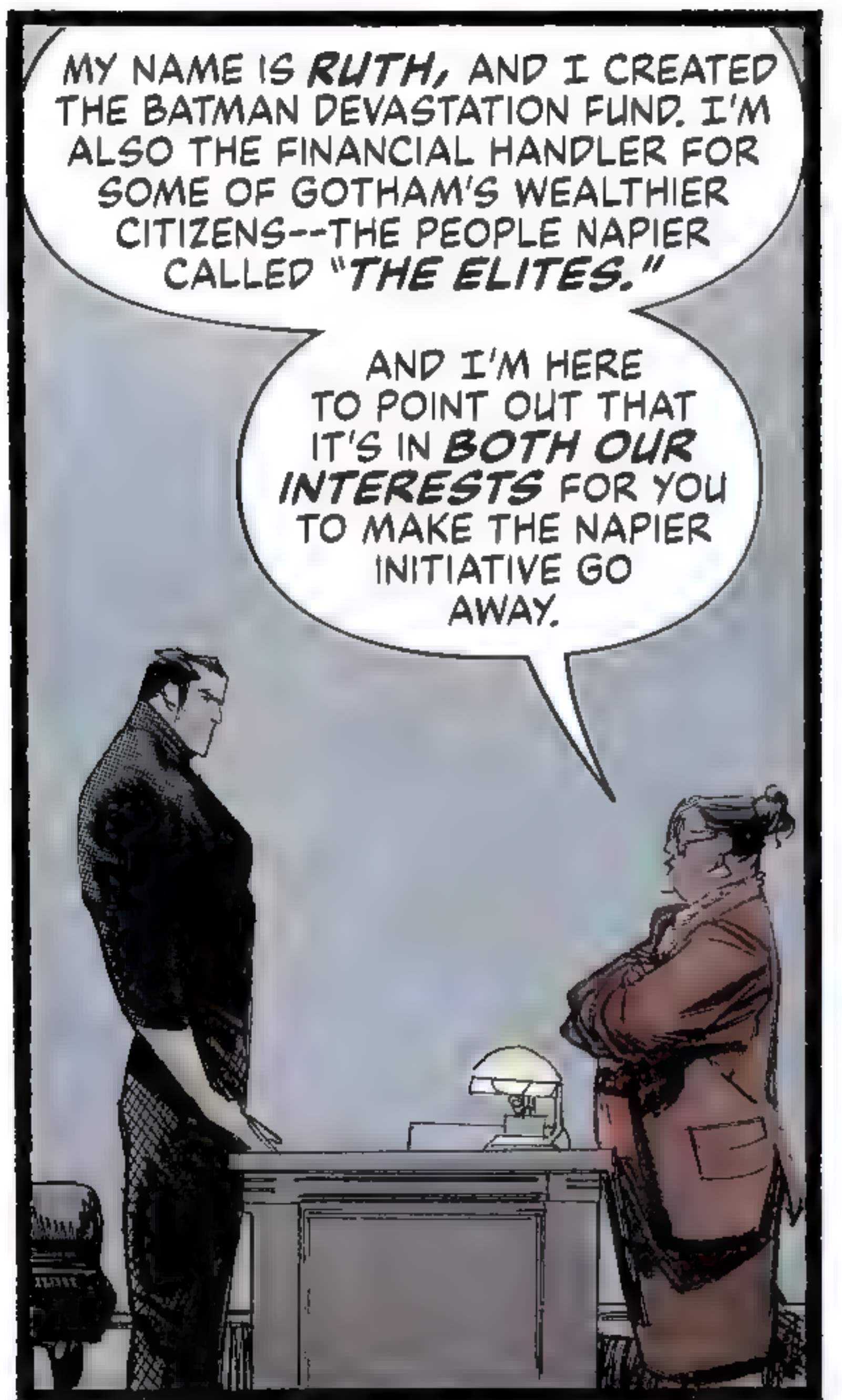
YOU AND THE POLICE CAN LAY OFF MY CLIENTS, MR. WAYNE. OUR MUTUAL FRIEND **THE JOKER** TOLD ME EVERYTHING.

THERE MUST BE SOME MISUNDERSTAND--



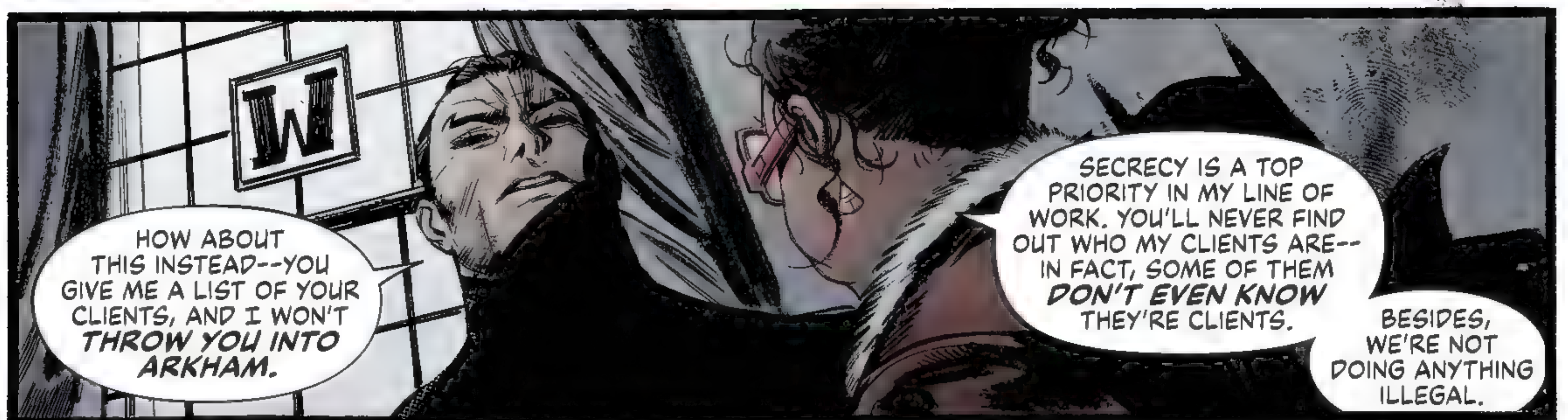
THIS WILL GO A LOT QUICKER IF YOU STOP PLAYING STUPID AND JUST ACCEPT THE FACT THAT RIGHT NOW, I KNOW MORE ABOUT BRUCE WAYNE THAN YOU DO.

WHO ARE YOU?



MY NAME IS **RUTH**, AND I CREATED THE BATMAN DEVASTATION FUND. I'M ALSO THE FINANCIAL HANDLER FOR SOME OF GOTHAM'S WEALTHIER CITIZENS--THE PEOPLE NAPIER CALLED "**THE ELITES**."

AND I'M HERE TO POINT OUT THAT IT'S IN **BOTH OUR INTERESTS** FOR YOU TO MAKE THE NAPIER INITIATIVE GO AWAY.



HOW ABOUT THIS INSTEAD--YOU GIVE ME A LIST OF YOUR CLIENTS, AND I WON'T THROW YOU INTO **ARKHAM**.

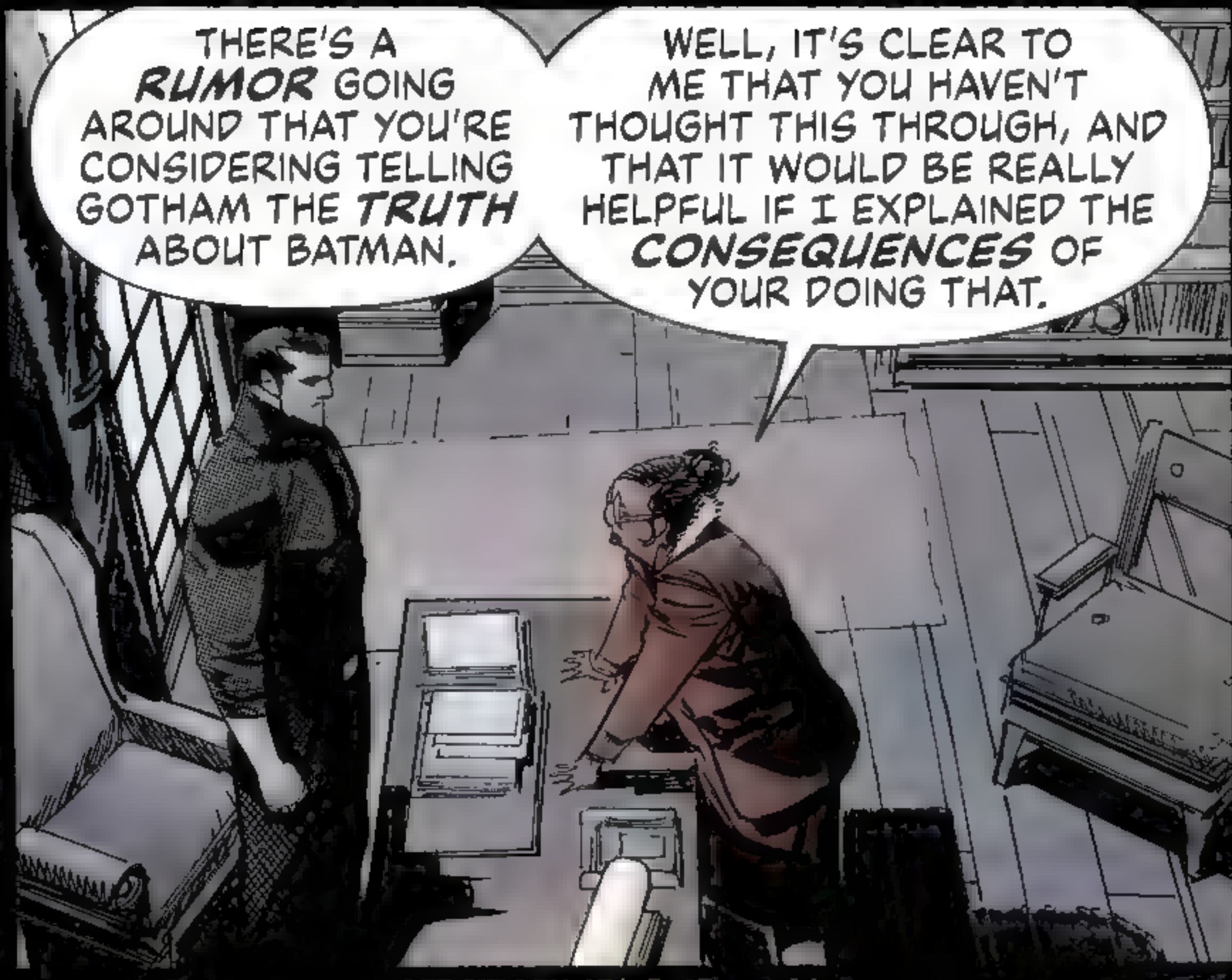
SECRECY IS A TOP PRIORITY IN MY LINE OF WORK. YOU'LL NEVER FIND OUT WHO MY CLIENTS ARE--IN FACT, SOME OF THEM **DON'T EVEN KNOW** THEY'RE CLIENTS.

BESIDES, WE'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING ILLEGAL.



YOU'RE TRYING TO BLACKMAIL ME.

NO, I'M JUST HERE TO TELL YOU THE **FACTS**.



THERE'S A **RUMOR** GOING AROUND THAT YOU'RE CONSIDERING TELLING GOTHAM THE **TRUTH** ABOUT BATMAN.

WELL, IT'S CLEAR TO ME THAT YOU HAVEN'T THOUGHT THIS THROUGH, AND THAT IT WOULD BE REALLY HELPFUL IF I EXPLAINED THE **CONSEQUENCES** OF YOUR DOING THAT.

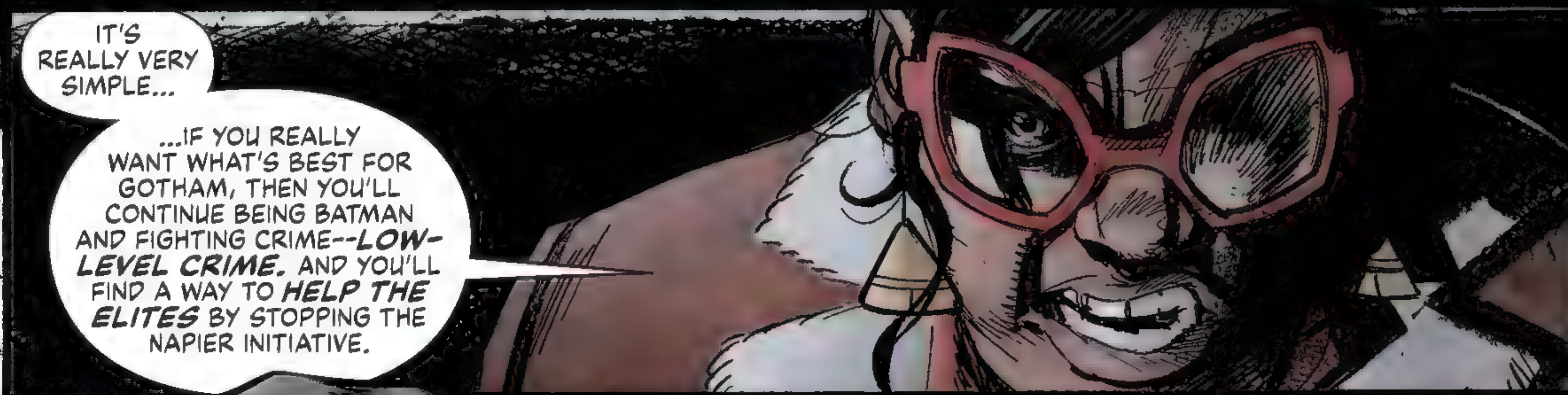


FIRST, THE STOCK IN YOUR COMPANIES WOULD PLUMMET AS THE FBI SEIZED YOUR ASSETS AND ARRESTED YOU FOR **TERRORISM**. THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WOULD LOSE THEIR JOBS-- NOT JUST YOUR EMPLOYEES, BUT WORKERS ALL OVER THE CITY AS YOU SEND GOTHAM'S **ECONOMY** INTO A TAILSPIN, RESULTING IN EVEN MORE **CRIME AND POVERTY**.



THEN YOU'D LOSE YOUR ENTIRE **FORTUNE** AS YOU ACCUMULATED HUNDREDS OF ASSAULT CHARGES FROM DECADES OF VIGILANTISM. EVERYONE YOU EVER WORKED WITH WOULD BE CHARGED WITH AIDING AND ABETTING, INCLUDING THE **ENTIRE GCPD**.

YOU'D **BEG TO GO TO PRISON**--BECAUSE THAT'S THE ONLY WAY YOU'D BE SAFE FROM THE DOZENS OF SUPER-CRIMINALS WHO WILL SEEK REVENGE.



IT'S REALLY VERY SIMPLE...

...IF YOU REALLY WANT WHAT'S BEST FOR GOTHAM, THEN YOU'LL CONTINUE BEING BATMAN AND FIGHTING CRIME--**LOW-LEVEL CRIME**. AND YOU'LL FIND A WAY TO **HELP THE ELITES** BY STOPPING THE NAPIER INITIATIVE.



I DON'T CARE WHAT IT TAKES TO EXPOSE YOU.

YOU SHOULD.

BECAUSE YOU WON'T SURVIVE THIS. AND NEITHER WILL DICK OR BARBARA...

"...OR ANYONE ELSE YOU'VE ROPED INTO YOUR CAUSE."

YOU ALL KNOW I'M NOT A POLITICIAN.

I'M JUST A BLUE-COLLAR KID WHO WANTED TO BE AN UNDERPAID COP.

I'M NOT GOOD AT *SPIN*, I DON'T LIKE *CAMERAS*, AND I HAVE *NO PATIENCE* FOR BULLSHIT.

SO I'M GOING TO BREAK THE RULES OF POLITICS AND BE HONEST WITH YOU...

I. HATED. JACK. NAPIER.

UNLIKE THE VOTERS, I DIDN'T HAVE THE LUXURY OF IGNORING ALL THE HORRIBLE THINGS JOKER DID TO HIS VICTIMS.

AND I WAS **STUNNED** WHEN HE GOT ELECTED AS COUNCILMAN. SUDDENLY I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE THE CITY I WAS LIVING IN-- I FELT BETRAYED.

AND FOR A LONG TIME I REFUSED TO BELIEVE THAT JACK NAPIER WAS A DIFFERENT PERSON THAN THE JOKER. THAT BURIED INSIDE GOTHAM'S **WORST CRIMINAL** WAS GOTHAM'S **BEST CHANCE** AT MOVING FORWARD.

BUT I WAS WRONG.

JACK NAPIER WAS NOT THE JOKER. AND WHILE HE WASN'T PERFECT, HE **DID** SHOW US HOW TO BE BETTER. AND THAT'S WHY WE CREATED THE **NAPIER INITIATIVE**.

AS COMMISSIONER I ENDED POLICE CORRUPTION, ADDRESSED THE PROBLEMS IN PLACES LIKE BACKPORT, AND SUPPORTED PROGRAMS LIKE THE GTO. BUT THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM ISN'T ON OUR STREETS, IT'S IN OUR **IVORY TOWERS**.

THAT'S WHY I'M ASKING FOR YOUR SUPPORT. GIVE ME THE POWER TO STOP THE SO-CALLED **ELITES**.

NOT AS YOUR COMMISSIONER, BUT AS YOUR **MAYOR!**

TSSSSS
BWAHAHAHAHAHA!

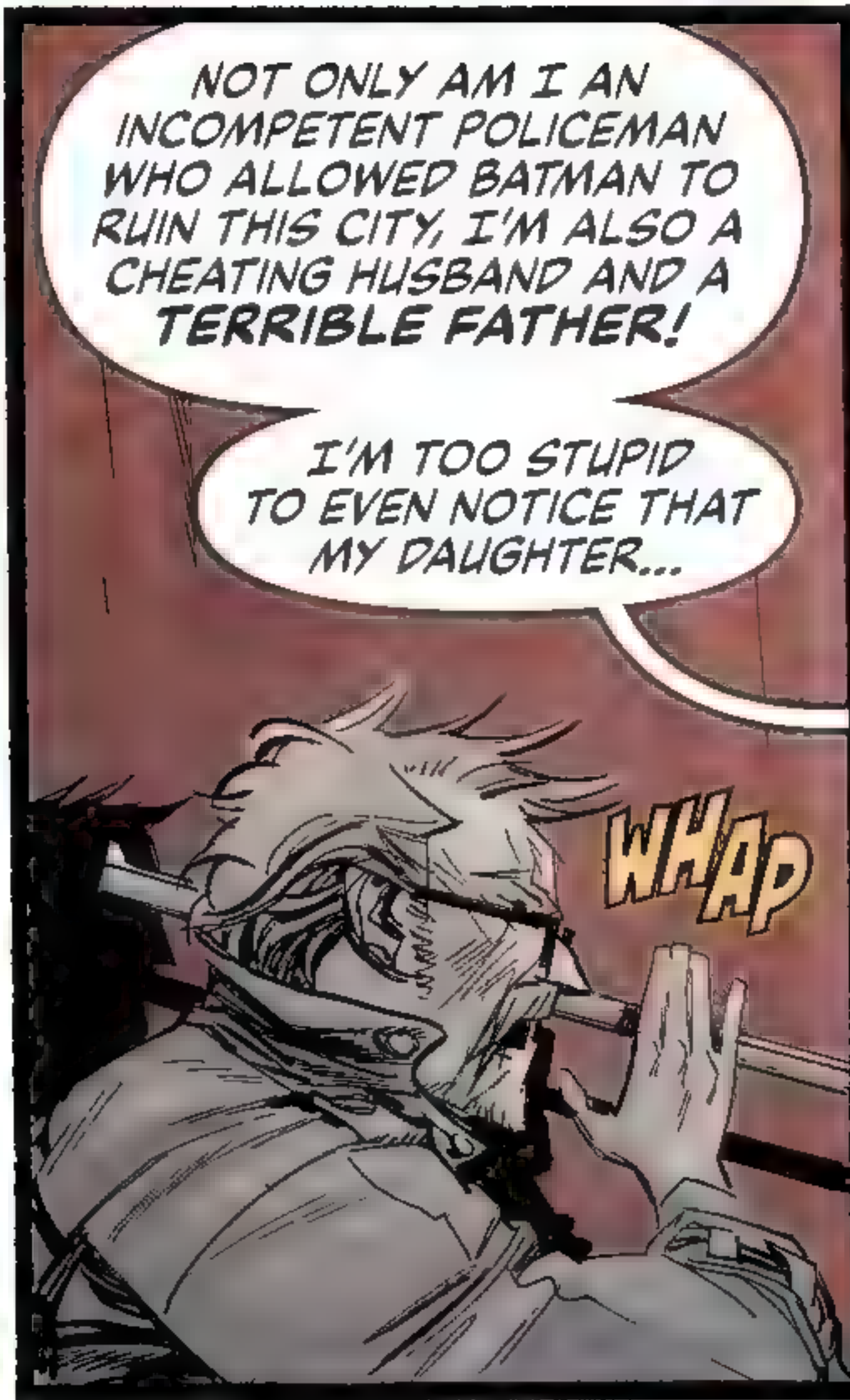


MY BRAND OF **COMEDY** EMBRACES THE CLASSICS--SQUIRTING FLOWERS, WHOOPEE CUSHIONS, AND YO MAMA JOKES. MAYBE A LITTLE IMPROV.

IMPRESSIONS WERE NEVER REALLY MY THING--BUT HEY, I'M HAPPY TO GIVE IT A WHIRL...



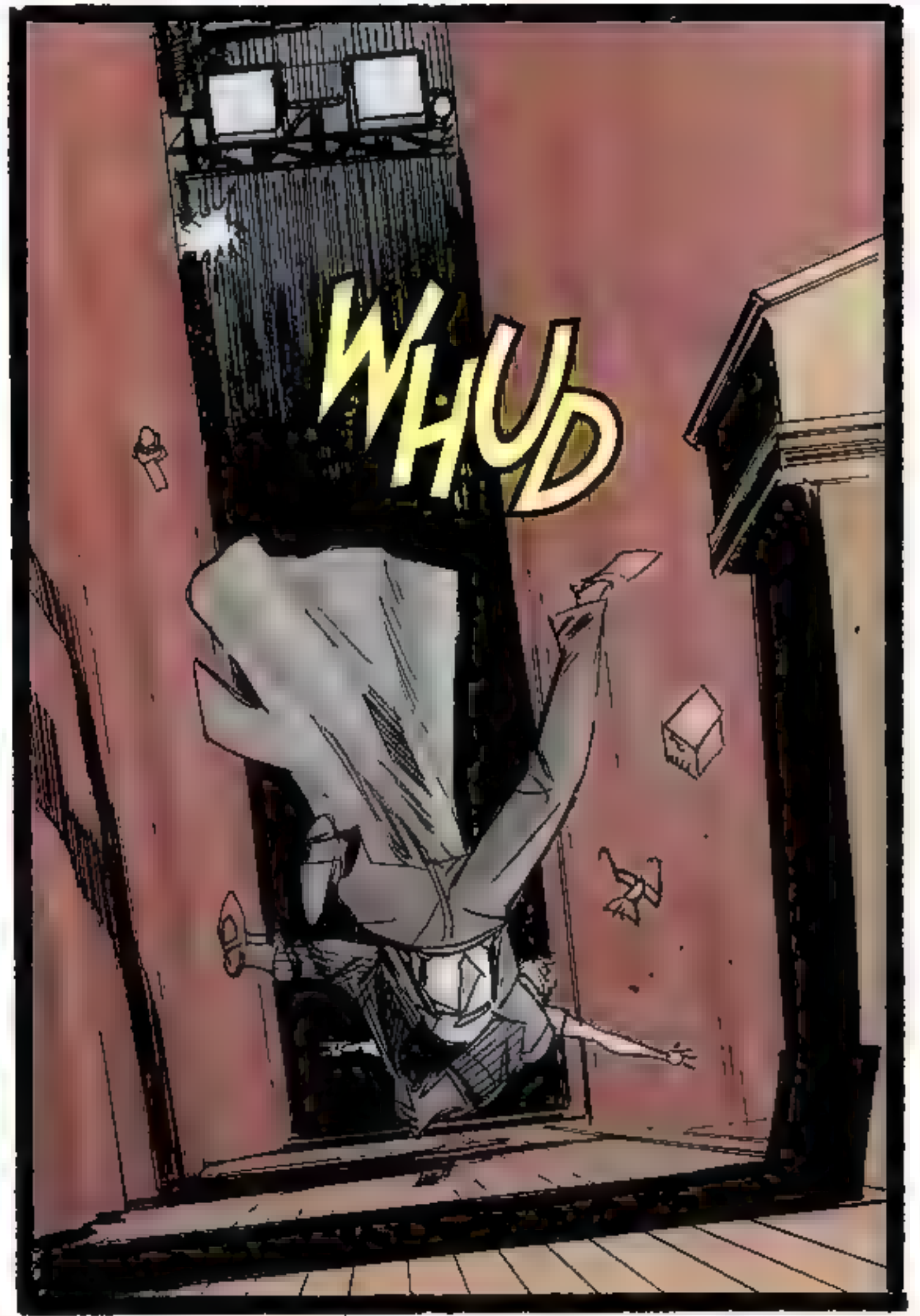
MY NAME'S **JIM GORDON**, AND I'M RUNNING FOR MAYOR!



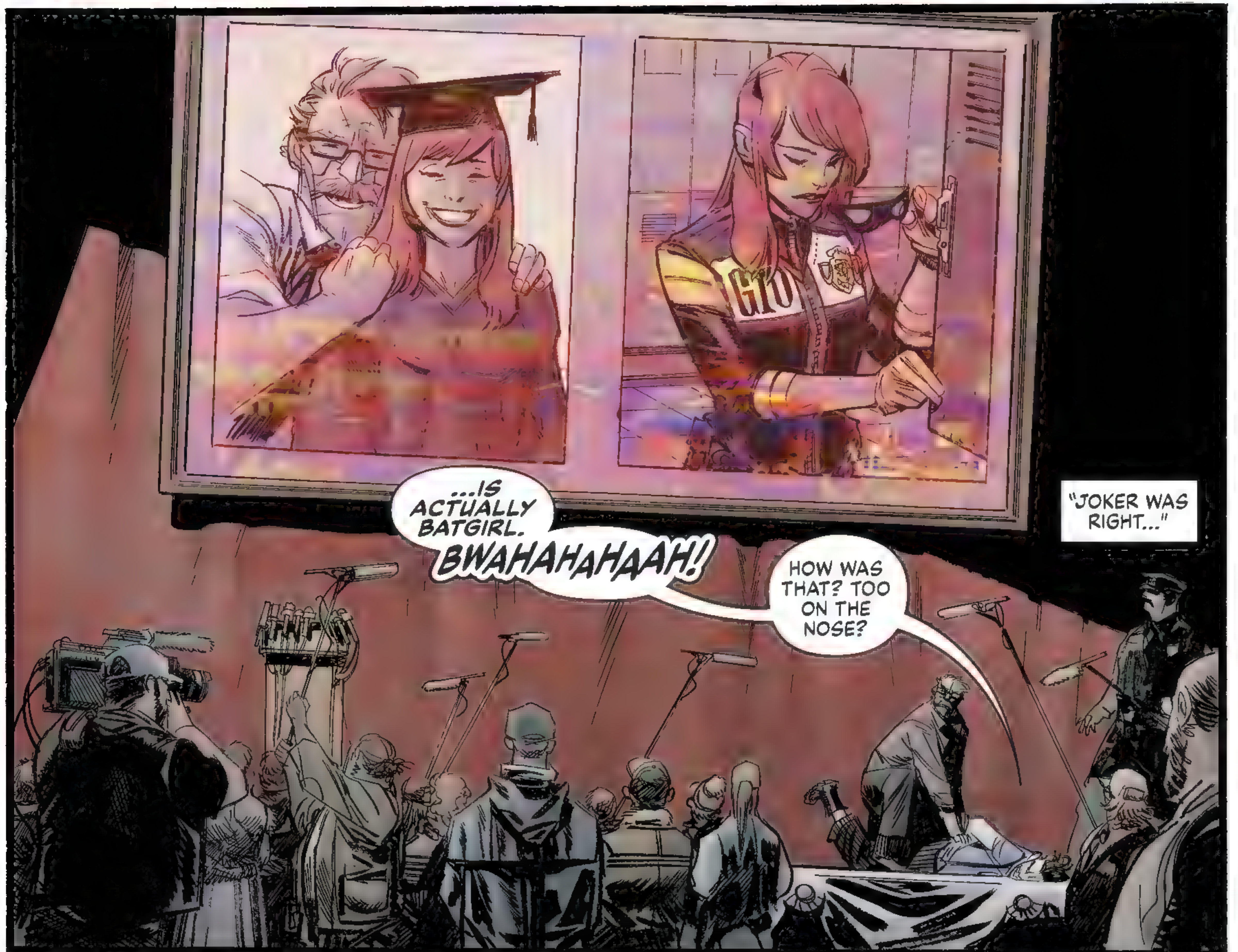
NOT ONLY AM I AN INCOMPETENT POLICEMAN WHO ALLOWED BATMAN TO RUIN THIS CITY, I'M ALSO A CHEATING HUSBAND AND A TERRIBLE FATHER!

I'M TOO STUPID TO EVEN NOTICE THAT MY DAUGHTER...

WHAP



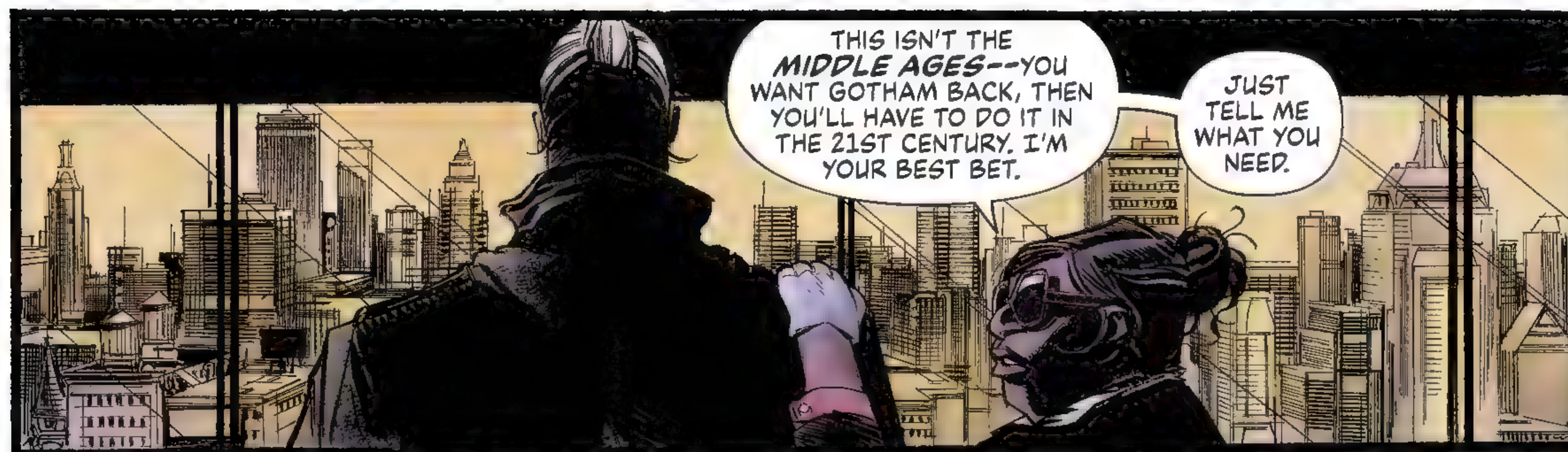
WHUD



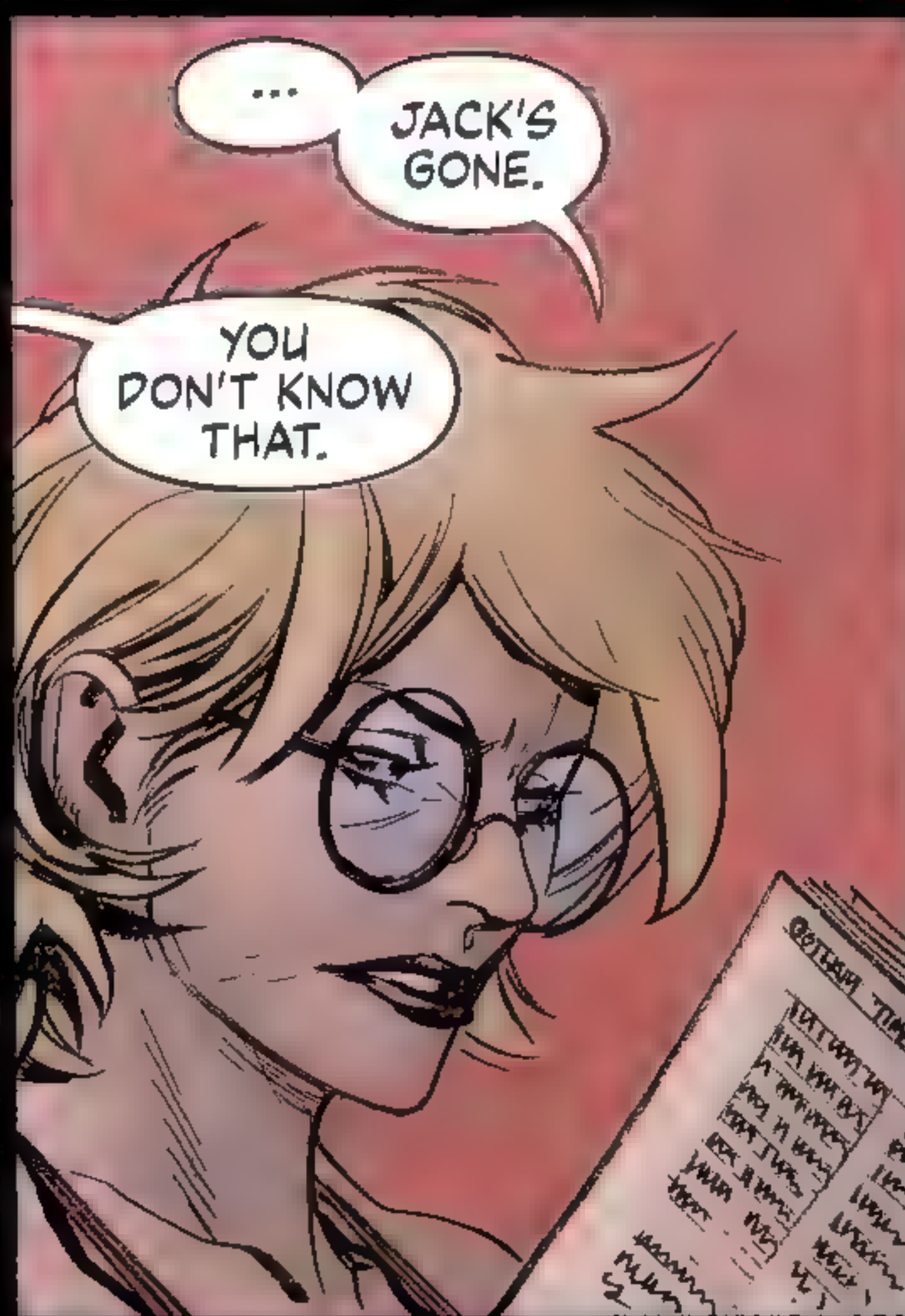
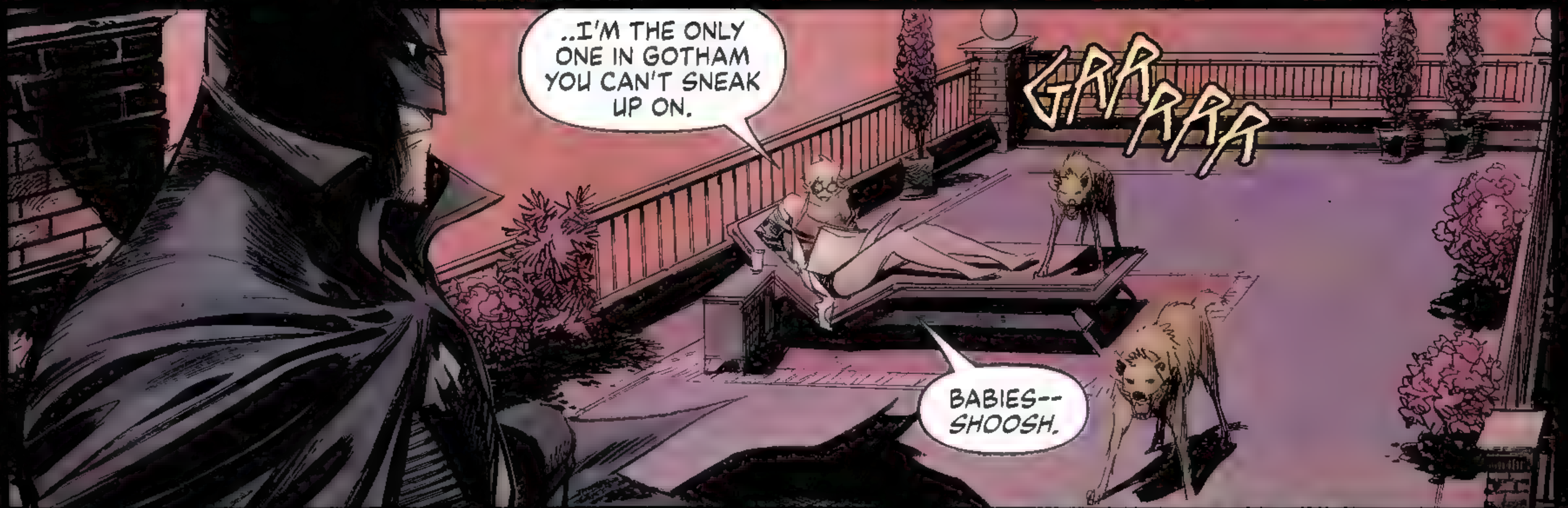
...IS ACTUALLY BATGIRL.
BWAHAHAHAH!

HOW WAS THAT? TOO ON THE NOSE?

"JOKER WAS RIGHT..."



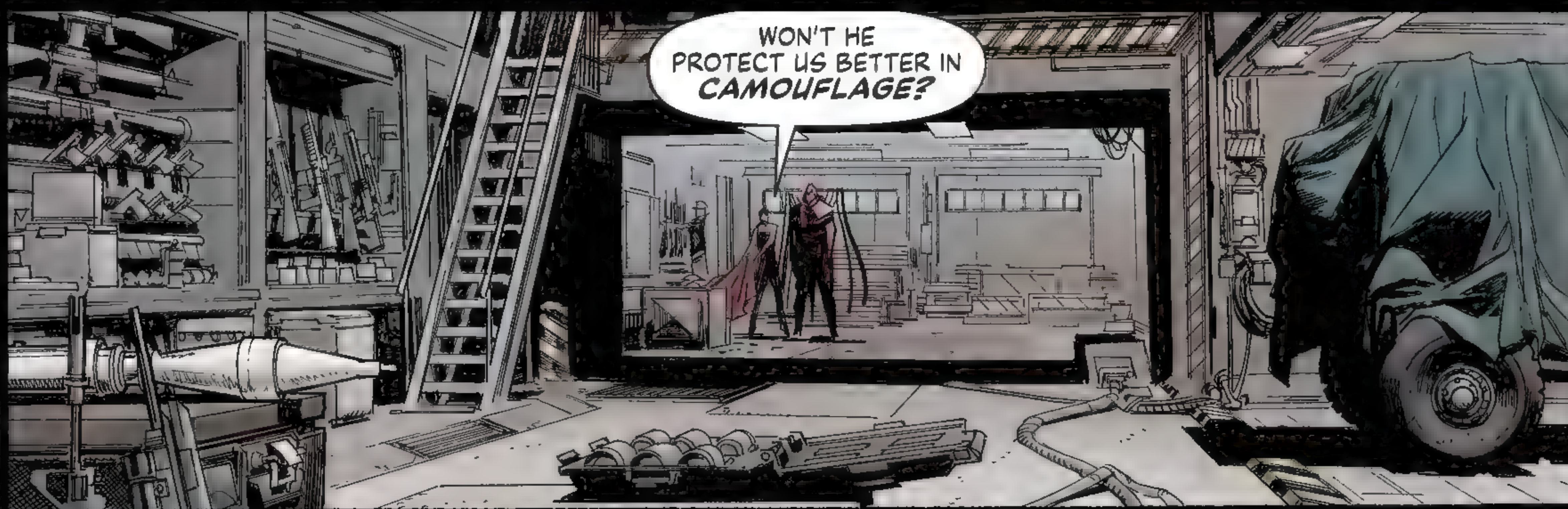




...THE
RED REALLY
STANDS
OUT.

IT DOESN'T
MATTER. GOD
WILL PROTECT
US.





WON'T HE PROTECT US BETTER IN CAMOUFLAGE?



THE FIRE AND THE COLORS ARE SYMBOLS OF *ST. DUMAS*. MY ANCESTORS JOINED *THE ORDER* YEARS AGO, AFTER THEY LOST CONTROL OF GOTHAM.

IT WOULD MEAN A LOT TO ME IF YOU WORE THEM.



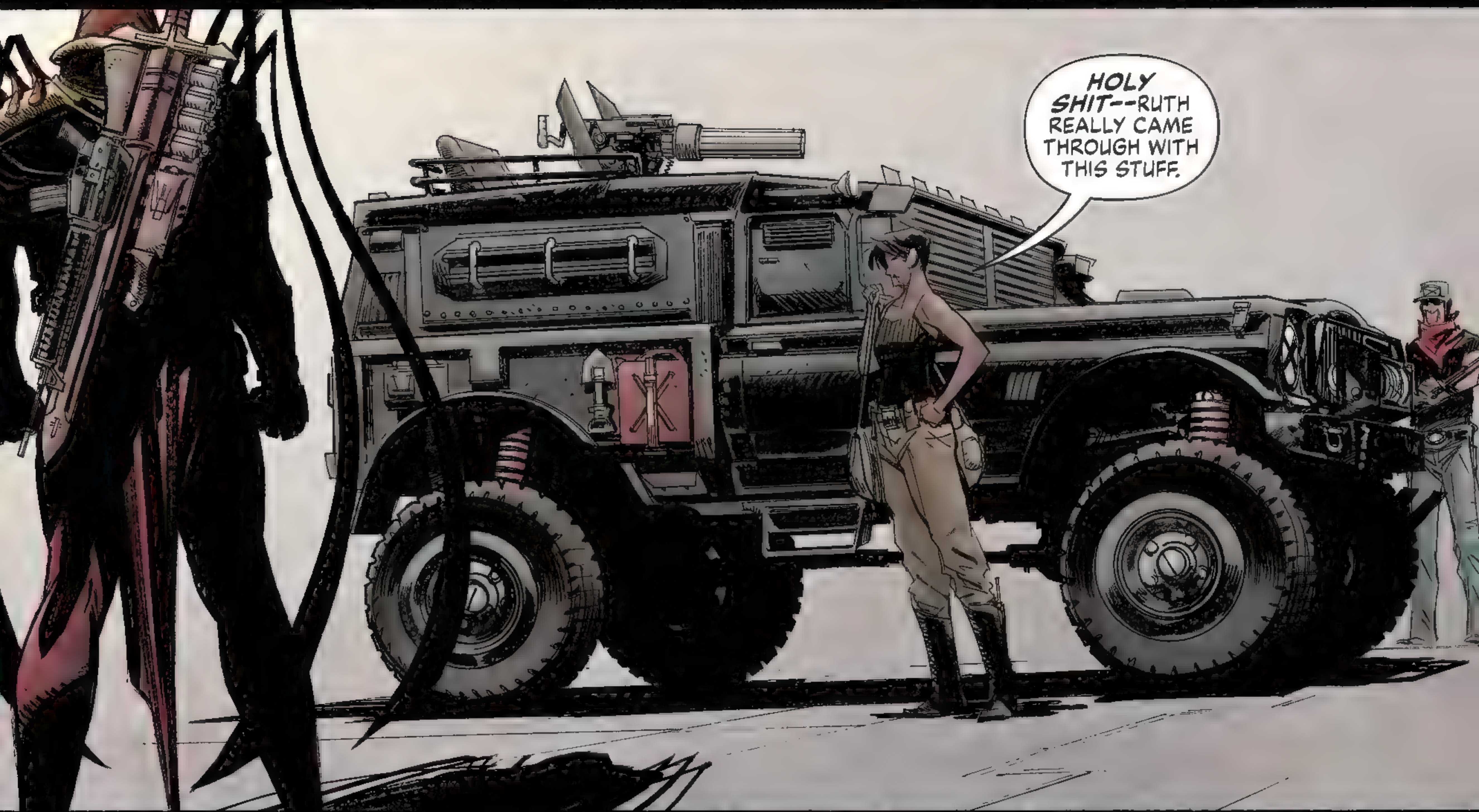
OF COURSE. I'D BE HONORED, JP.

MICHAEL-- YOU READY?

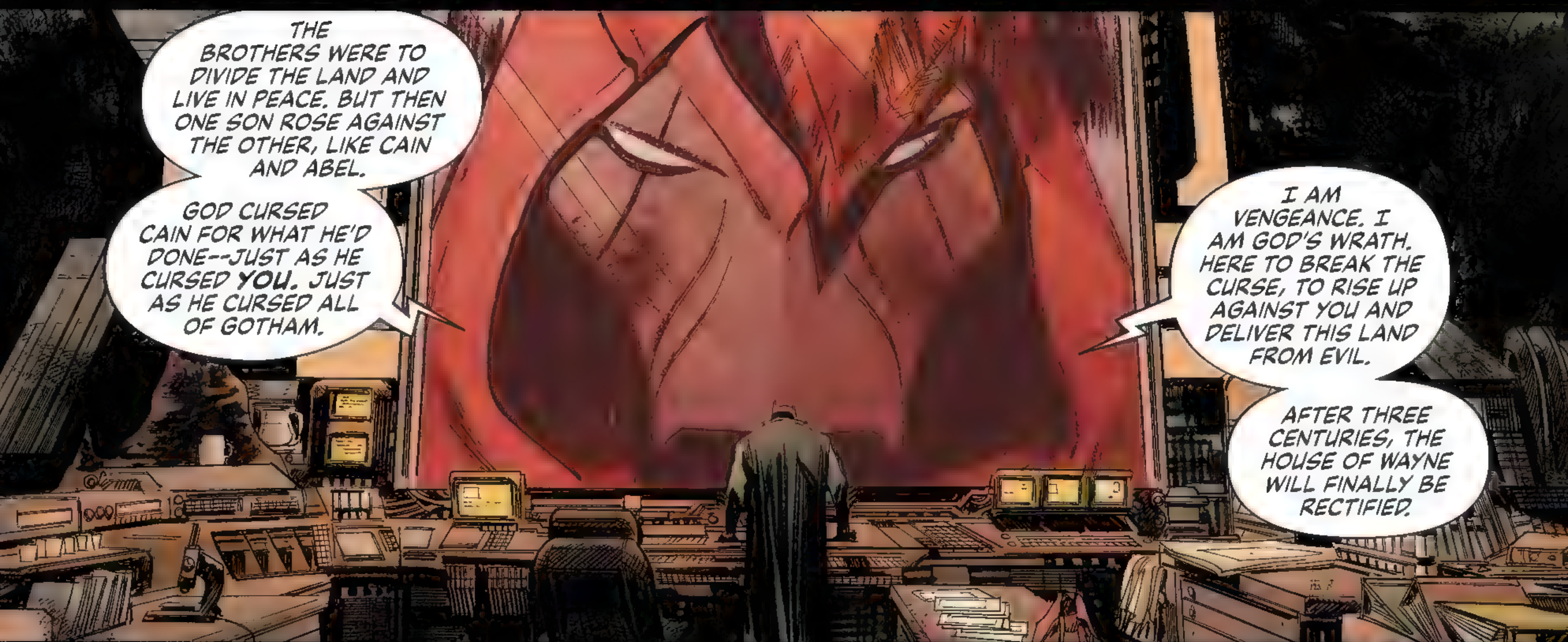
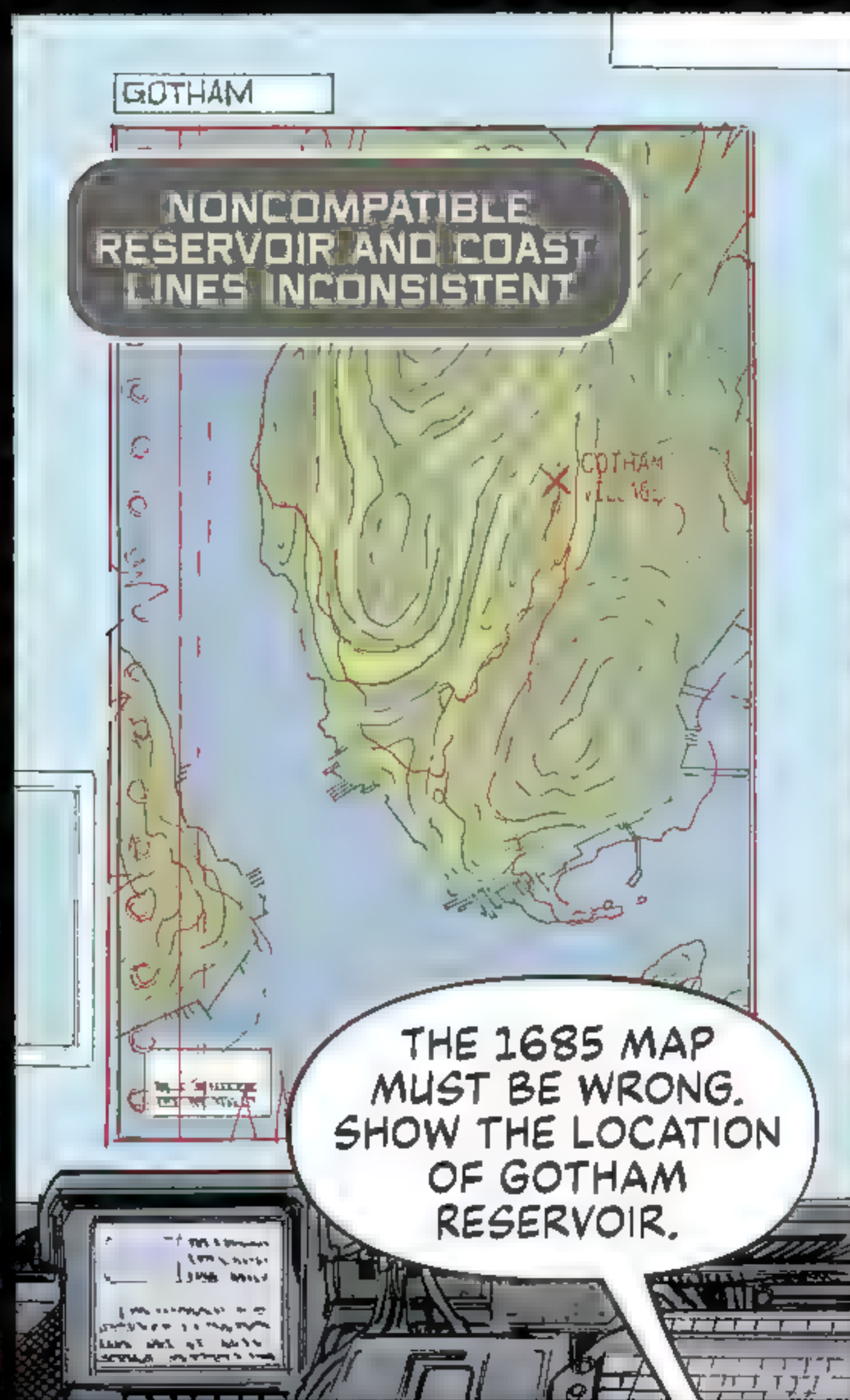
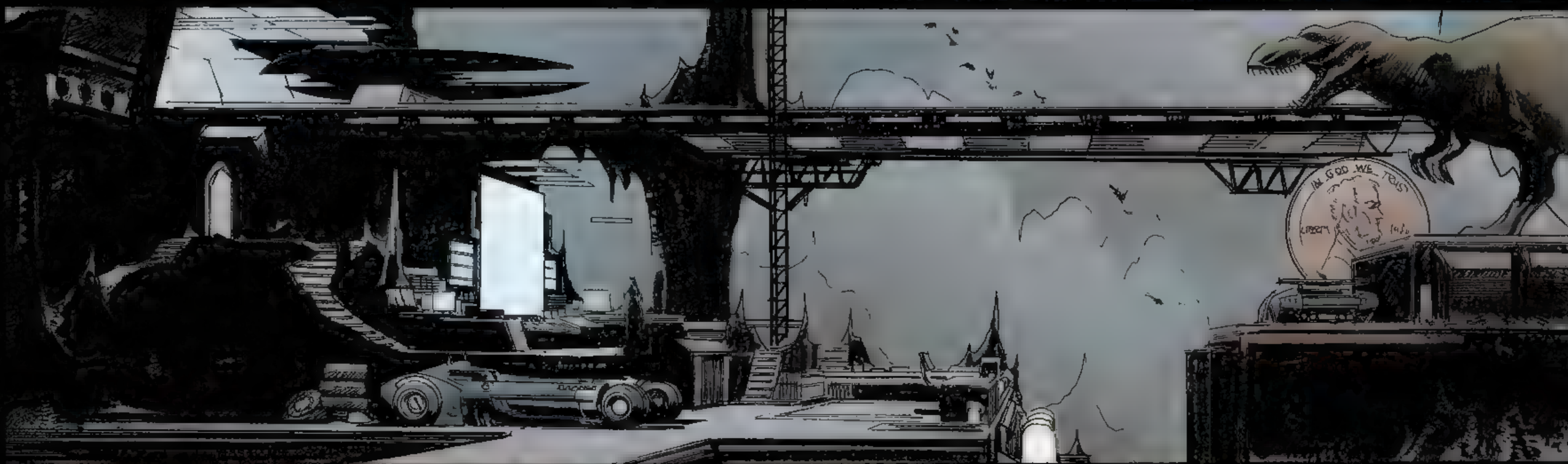


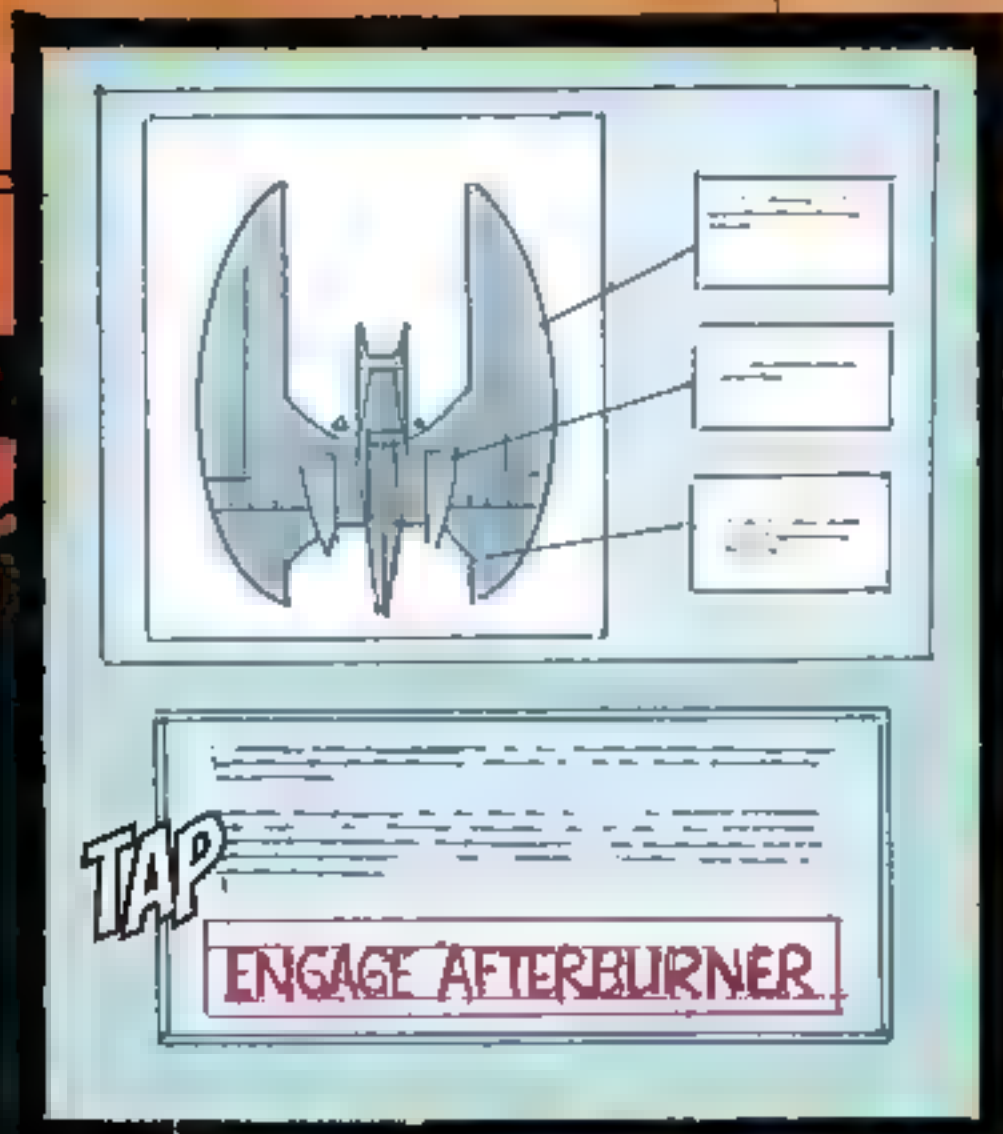
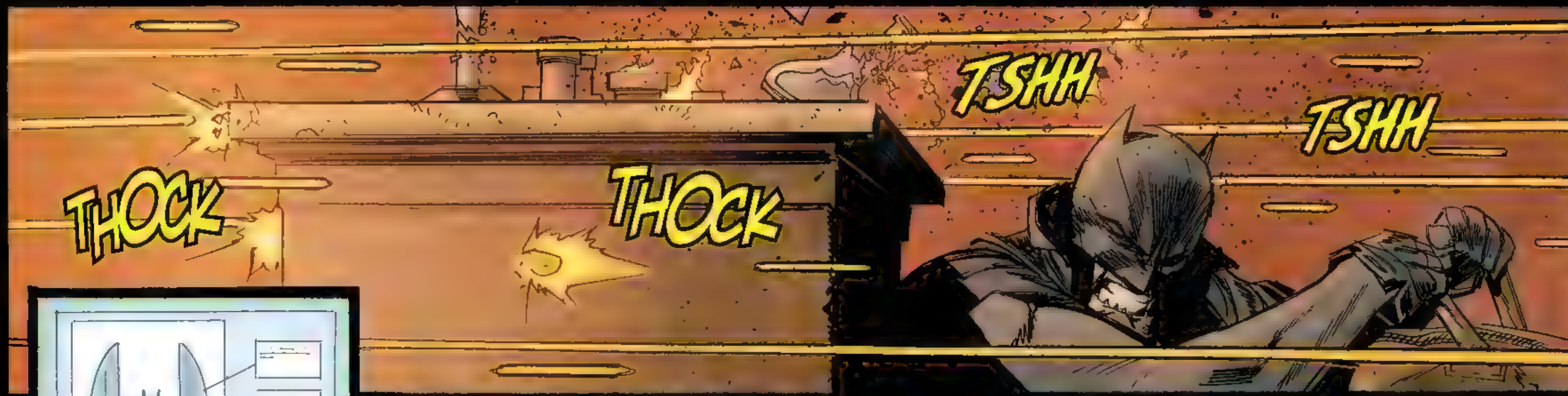
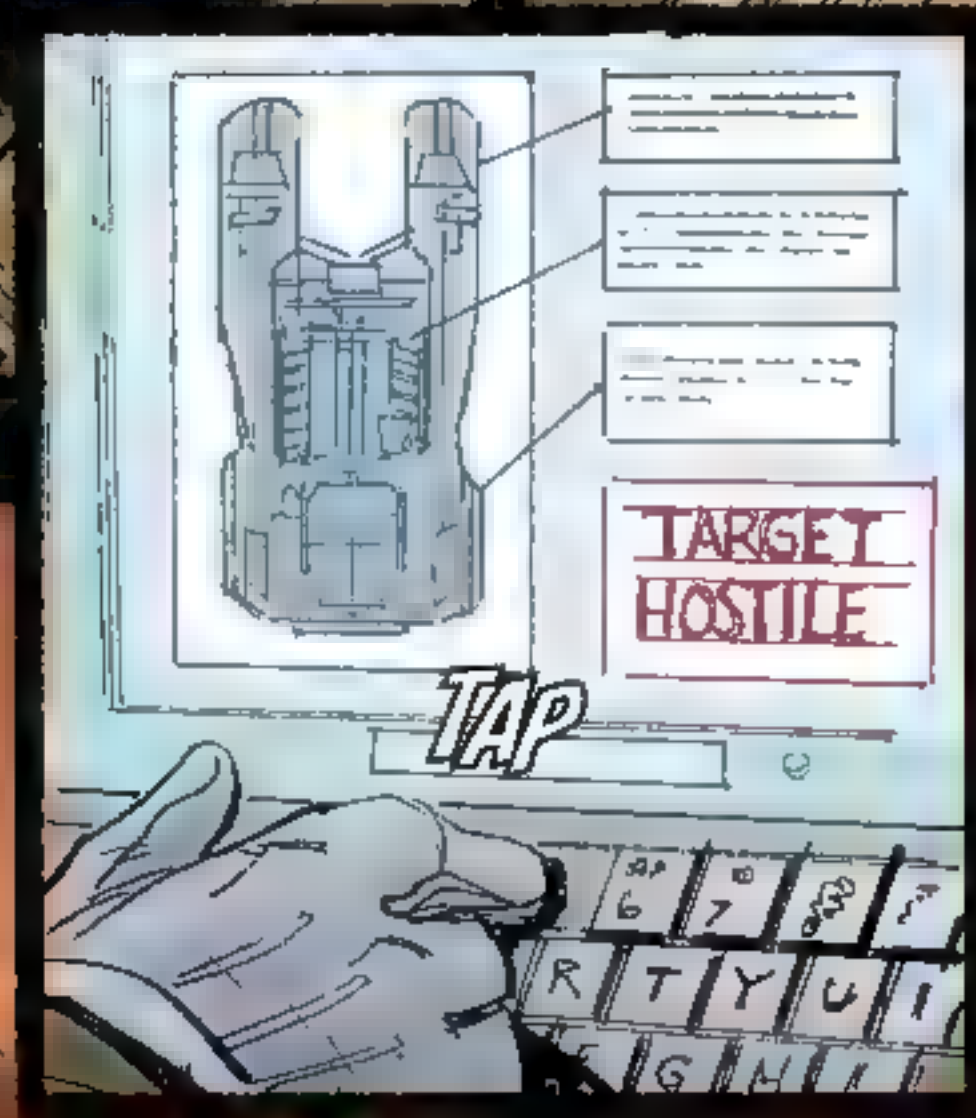
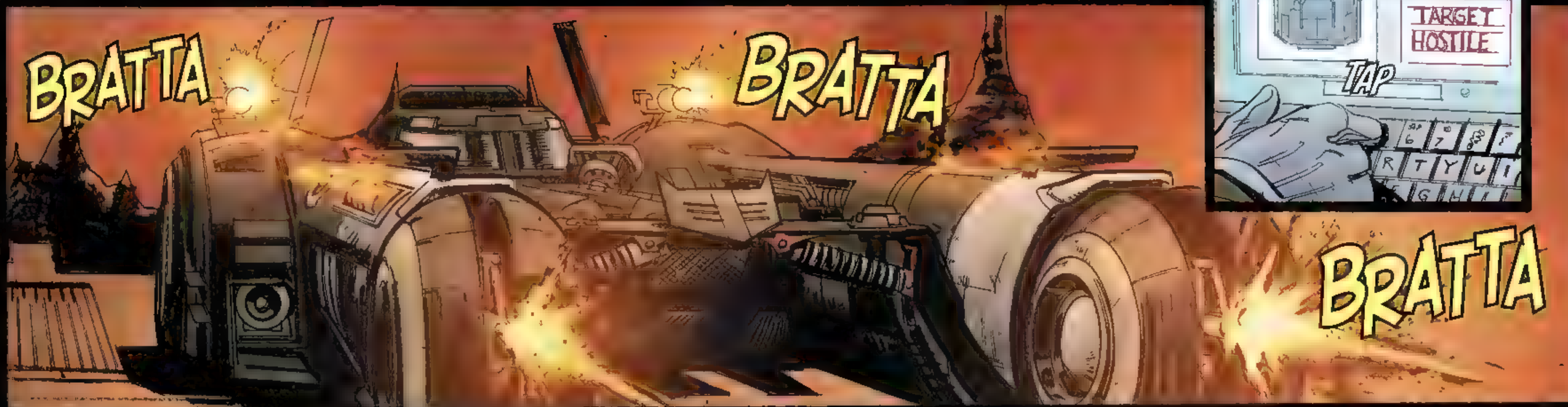
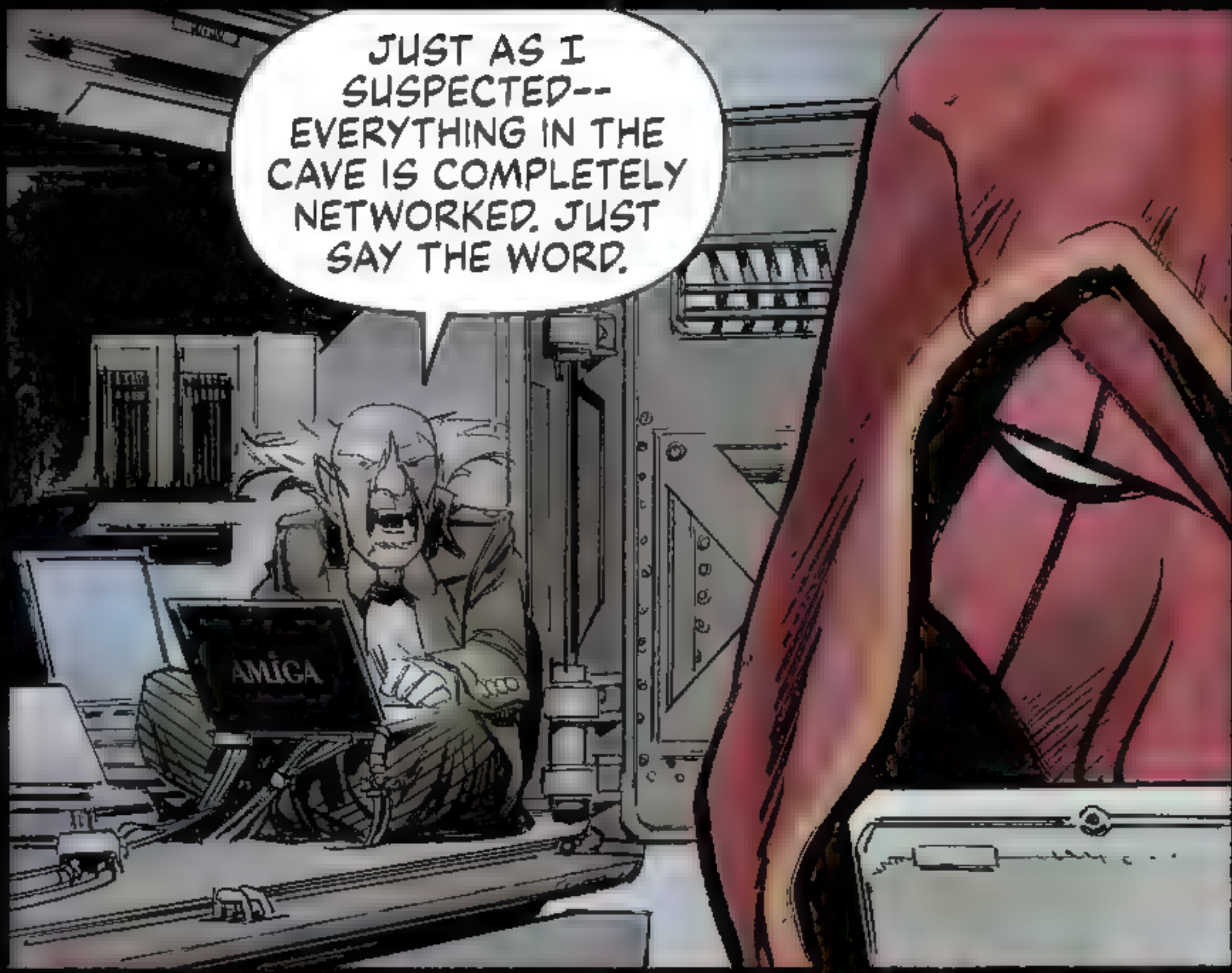
HE'S READY.

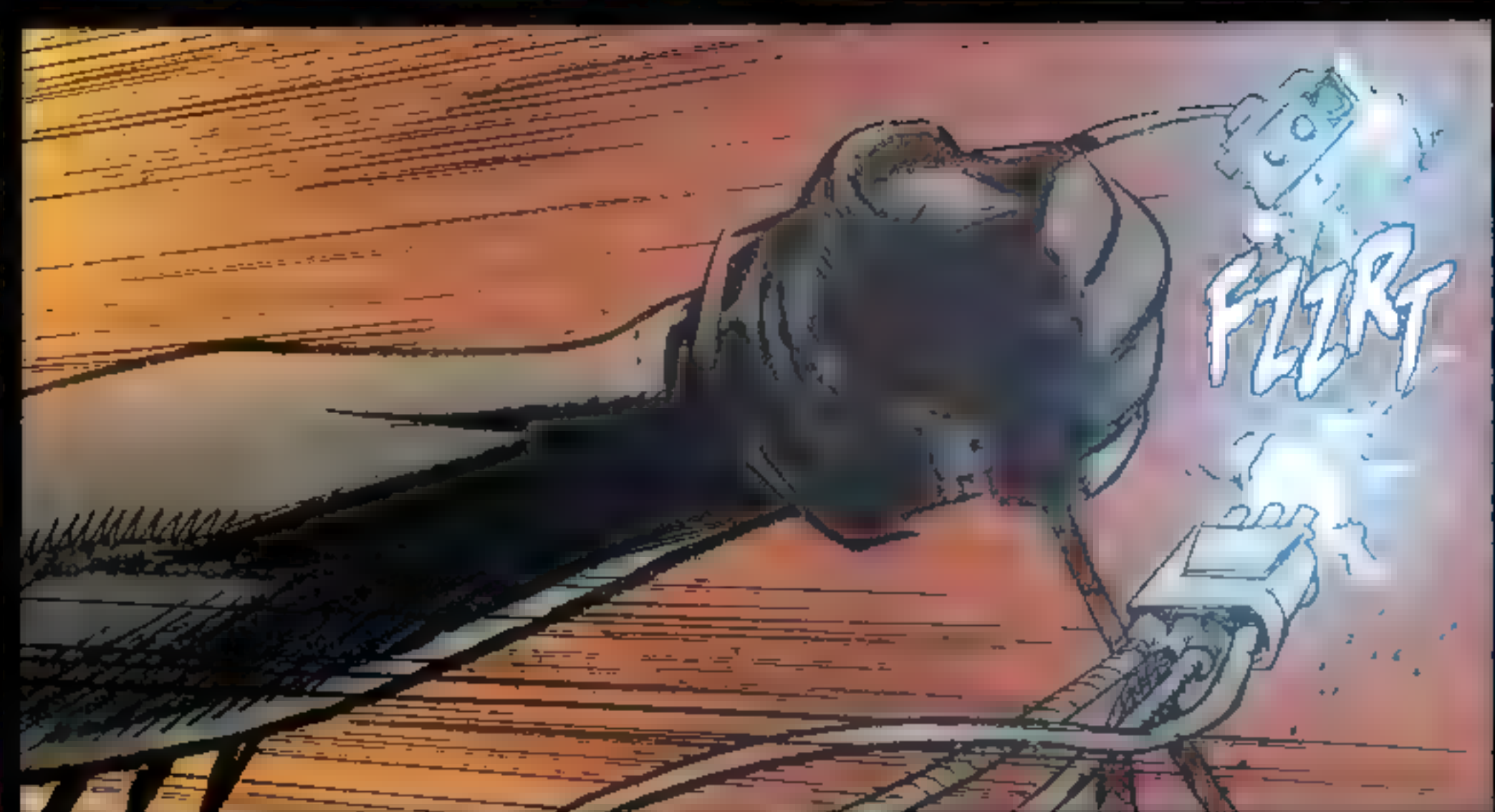
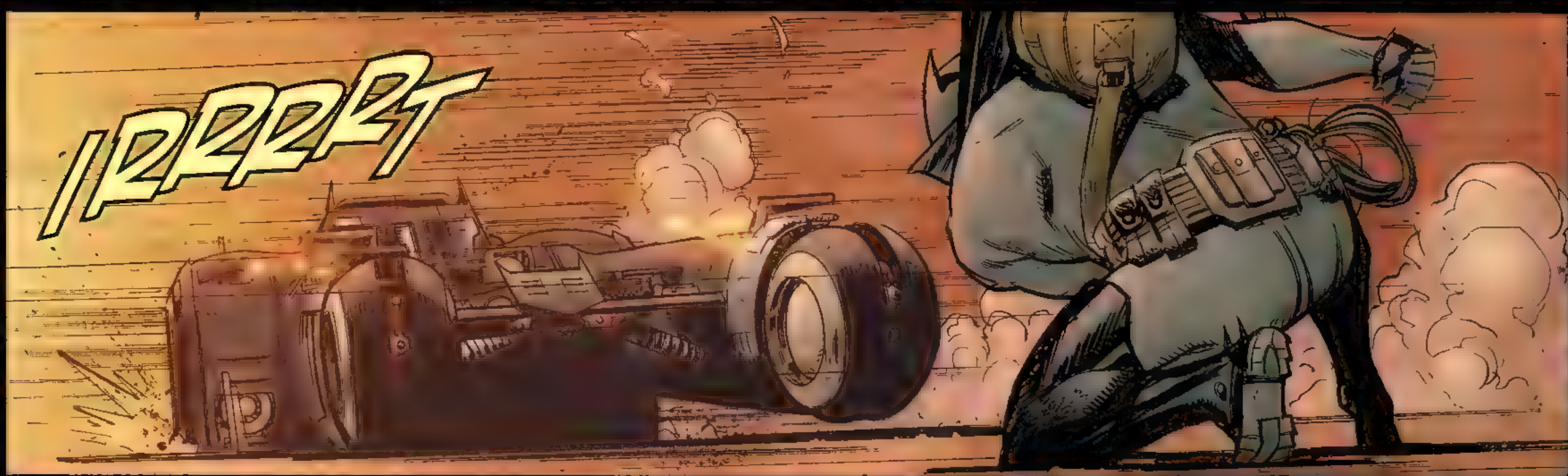
LOAD UP THE DOLPHIN.
TIME TO BREAK SOME STARCH.

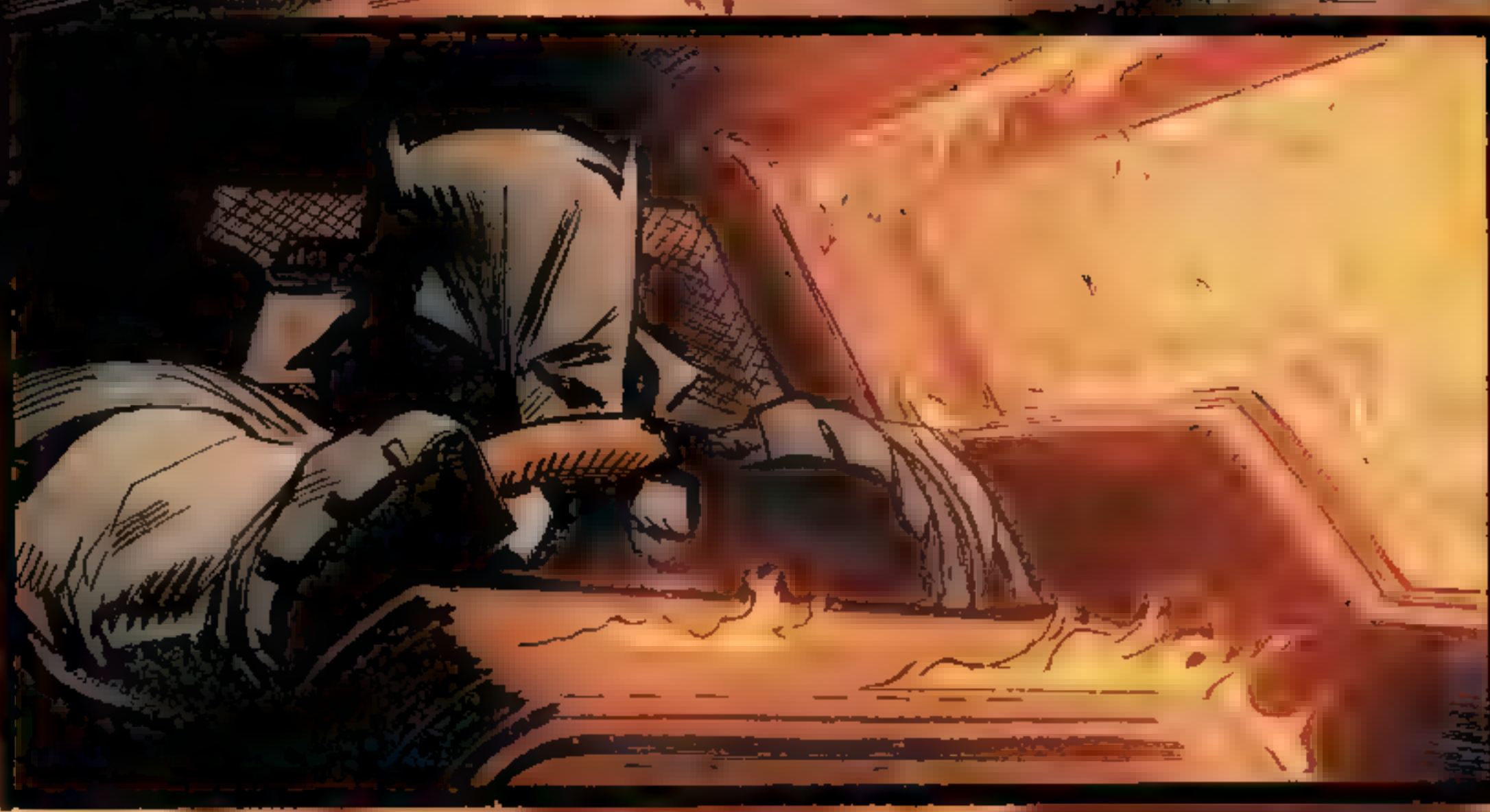


HOLY SHIT--RUTH REALLY CAME THROUGH WITH THIS STUFF.







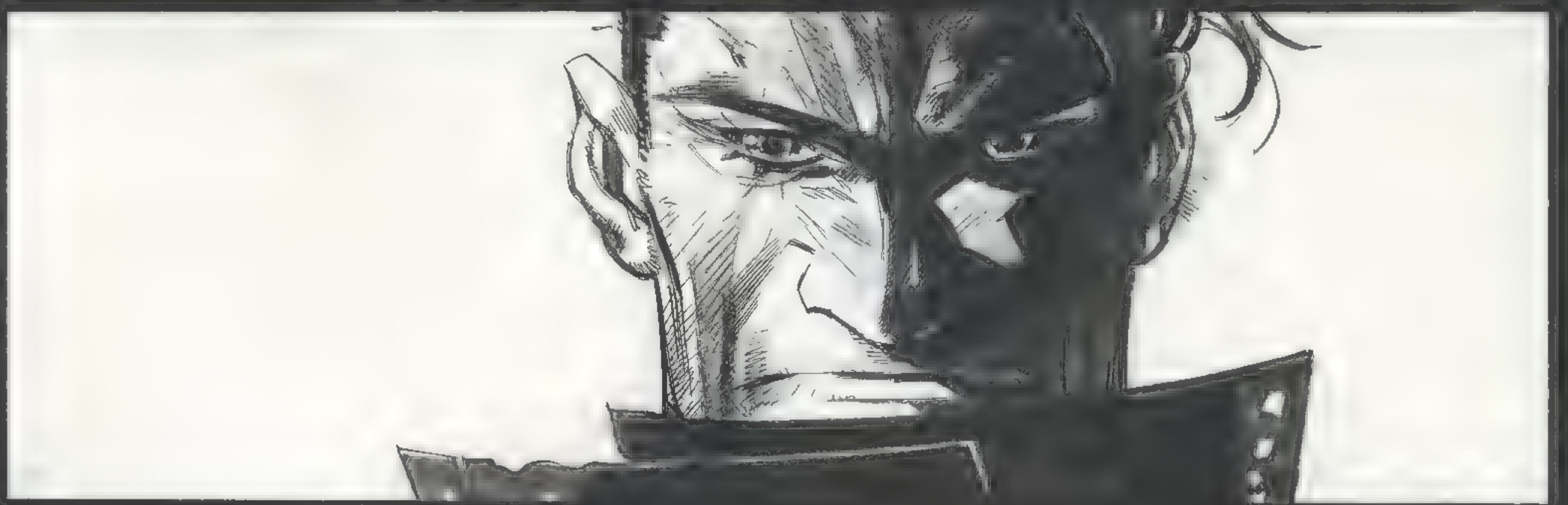


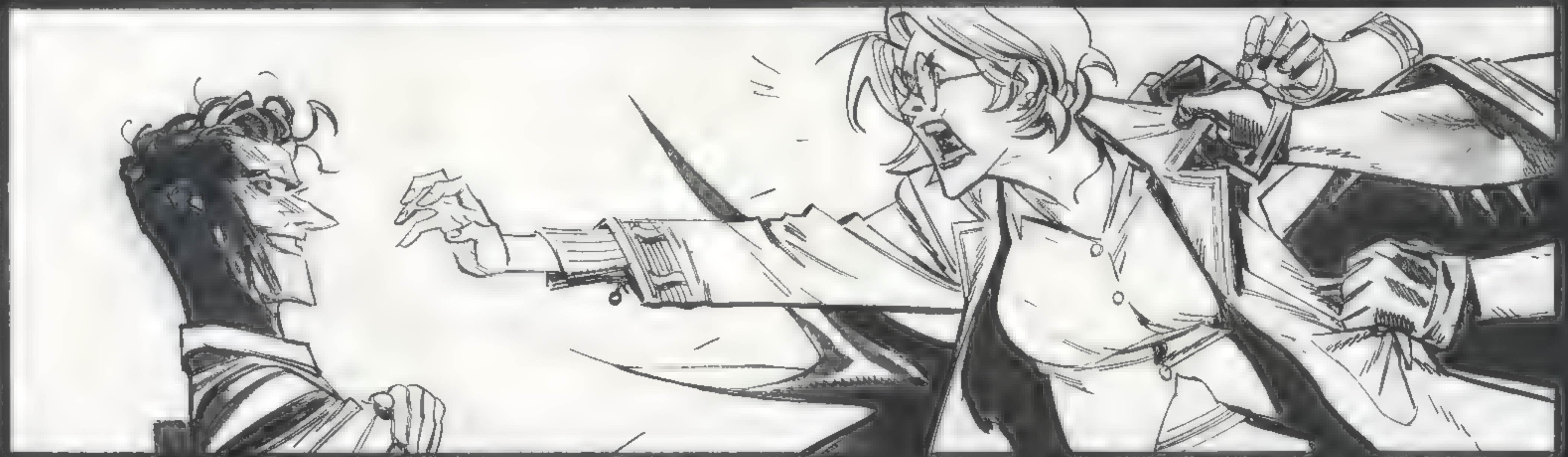
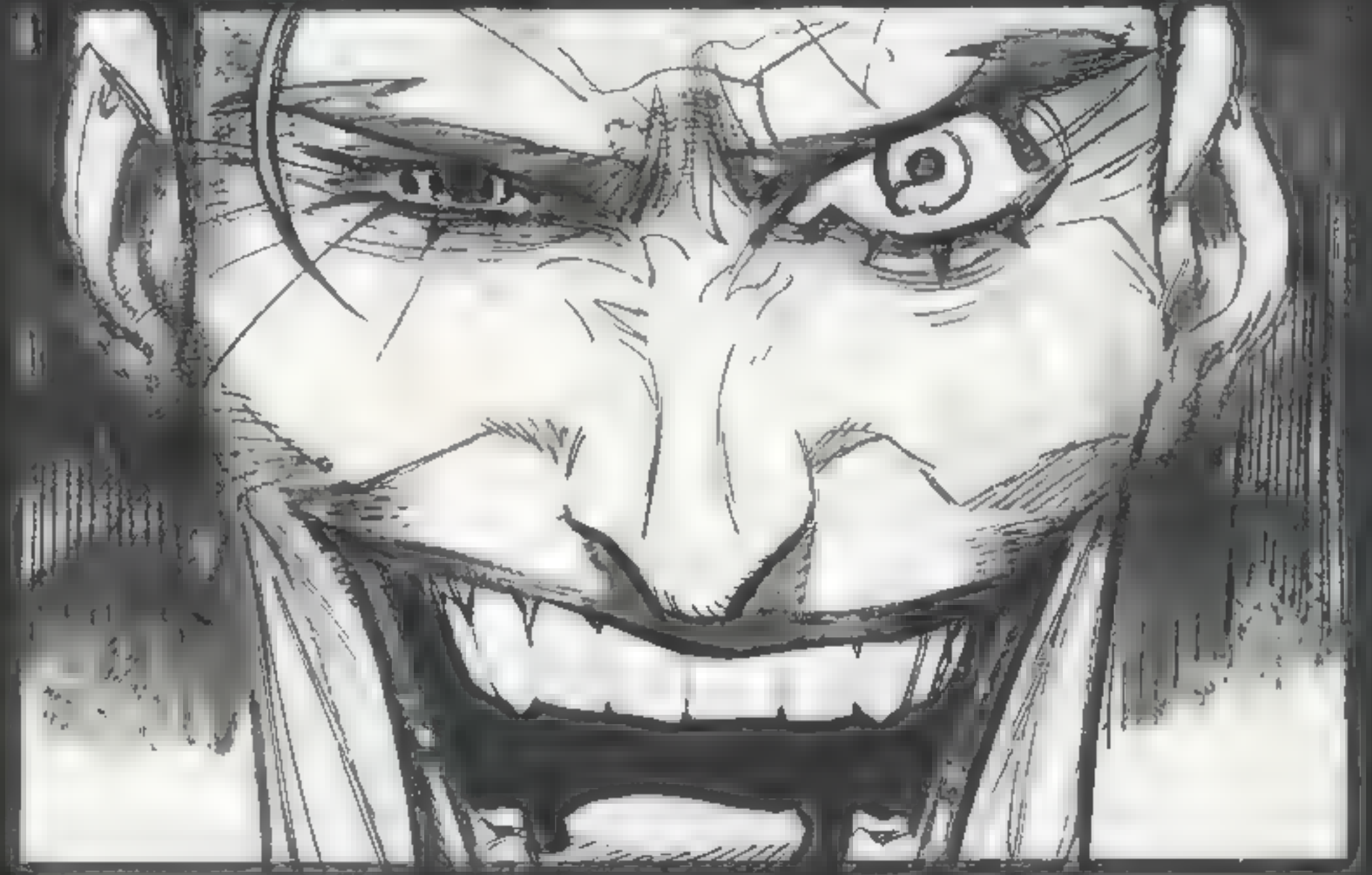
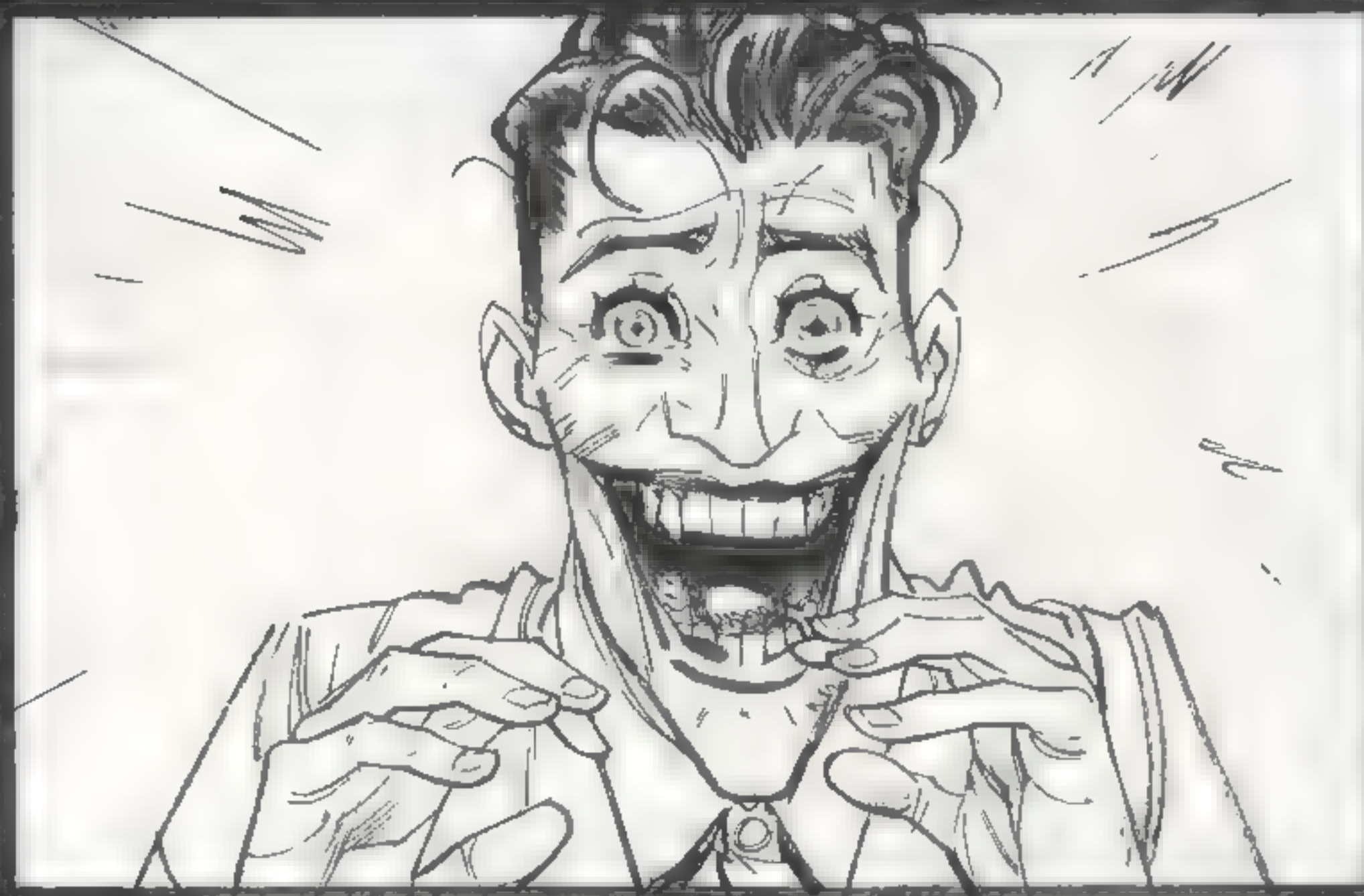
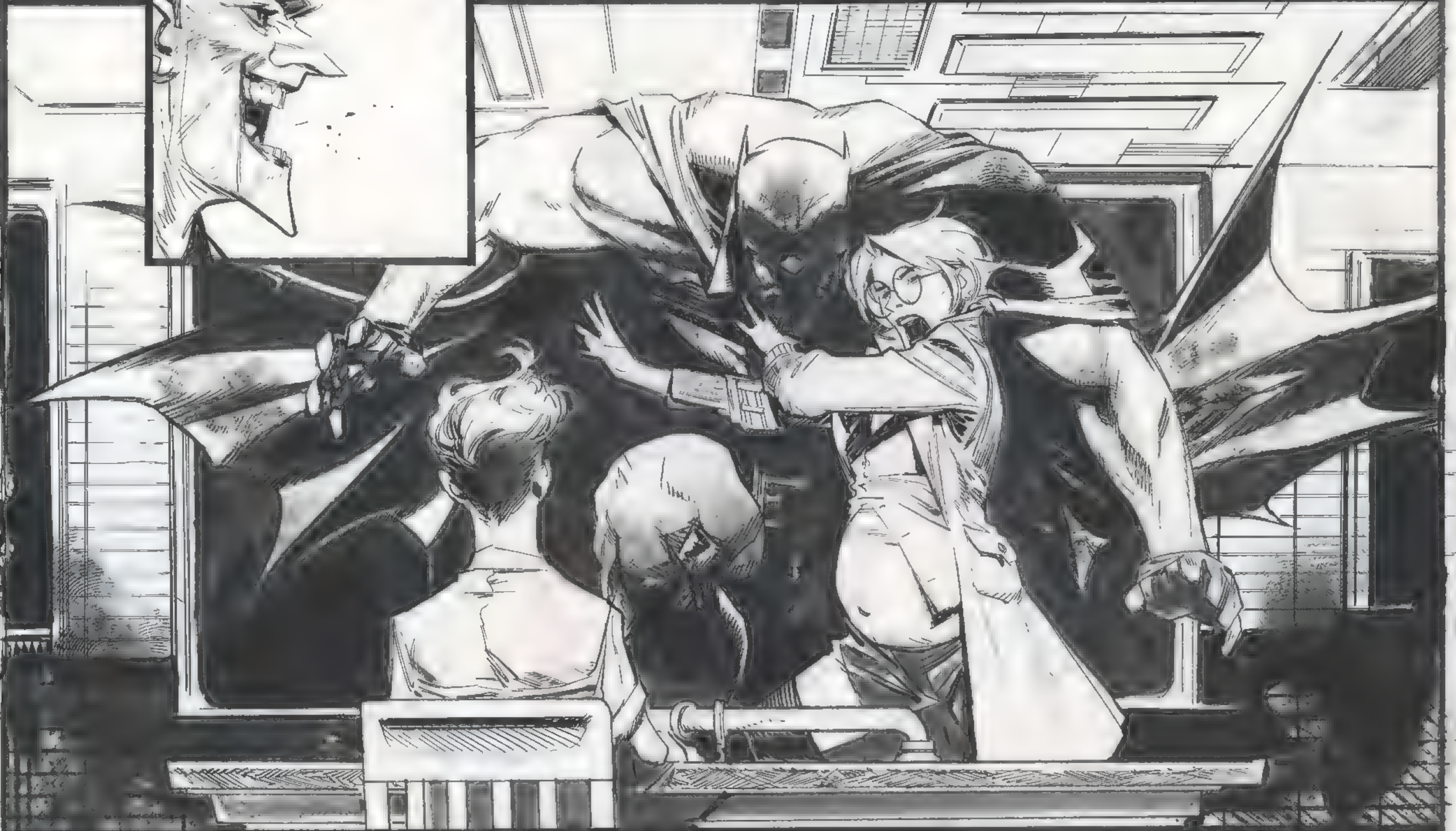
BOOM



NEXT ISSUE:

Black-and-white art for **BATMAN: CURSE OF THE WHITE KNIGHT** #3 by Sean Murphy









BATMAN

Written & illustrated by

SEAN MURPHY

DC
BLACK
LABEL



"Unlike anything
we've seen before." —Nerdist

BATMAN WHITE KNIGHT

SEAN MURPHY with MATT HOLLINGSWORTH

"Cinematic
and graphic."

—A.V. Club

"Murphy
was truly
born to draw
Batman."

—IGN

"A breakout
hit."

—SyFy Wire

"Holy cow
do you get
your
money's
worth."

—Nerdist

A graphic novel collection of the best-selling limited series



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A CURSE, A BIRTHRIGHT,
AND CENTURIES OF LIES...

THE JOKER IS BACK WITH
A DEVASTATING SECRET
TO SHAKE BATMAN AND
GOTHAM TO THE CORE!

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